

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Patrician premier
Times Profile of France's Laurent Fabius

The Button
Why America could be first to press it

Grass roots
James Fenton reviews Günter Grass on Writing and Politics

Questionable
Miles Kingston's quiz in which you guess the questions too

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr Robert Hutt of Hove, Sussex. Portfolio list, page 16; how to play, information service, back page. On Saturday, £22,000 may be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

Death of Laura Ashley

Laura Ashley, aged 60, the fashion designer, died in hospital yesterday after nine days in a coma. An inquest into her death will open at Coventry coroner's court today.

As a mark of respect the opening of a new Laura Ashley shop in Oxford Circus, planned for tomorrow, has been postponed until next Wednesday. A public flotation of the company valued at £200 million is planned for next year.

Obituary, page 14
Unlikely tycoon, back page

Child dead in roadside ditch

Police have discovered a child's body in a water-filled ditch beside the A1065 at Barton Mills, Suffolk, 70 miles from the caravan site in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, where Leonie Keating, aged three, disappeared four days ago.

PSBR doubles

The public sector borrowing requirement jumped to £1.1 billion last month, more than double the July figure, but is still within sight of the full-year target of £7.1 billion. Page 17

Crash kills four

Mr David John Morley, of Cobham, the pilot, Mr and Mrs George Albert Maxwell, of Marlborough, and a fourth unidentified Briton were killed when their light aircraft crashed near Le Touquet, France yesterday.

Coup hangings

Twelve leaders of a failed coup in Kenya three years ago have been executed secretly in a Nairobi jail, diplomats say. Page 8

Rail deadlock

Negotiations over the introduction of driver-only trains were adjourned after eight hours with British Rail refusing to agree to the reinstatement of 251 dismissed guards.

French secrets

Le Monde has directly implicated a French secret service diver in the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior at Auckland harbour in July. Page 6

Unita link

In announcing the death of a South African Army medical orderly in Angola, Pretoria has admitted for the first time it is providing support for Unita rebels. Angola fighting, page 8

Leader page 13
Letters: On royal powers, from Mr P. J. Allott; teachers, from Mr B. Larkman

Leading articles: Submissions to Fowler on welfare; Swedish election; China's reshuffle. Features, pages 10-12

Alliance steps to government: on guard against spetsnaz; Miles Kingston confesses; US nuclear warning fears; Robert Robinson stops the page

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Steel and Owen disagree over hung parliament

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Dundee

Clear differences of opinion were revealed yesterday between the Liberal and Social Democrat leaders, Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen, over their chances of exploiting an inconclusive general election and over the possible role of the Queen.

In a speech in Dundee, on the opening day of the Liberal Assembly, Mr Steel failed to endorse Dr Owen's view that the Queen need not call on the leader of the next Parliament to form a government, if no party had an overall majority.

He also showed himself much more doubtful than Dr Owen about the Queen's denying the leader of a minority government an immediate second election if the Alliance parties were to block that Government's programme.

The two leaders' differences over what their two-party Alliance might achieve in a "hung" Parliament will be the more widely noted because of their deliberate and repeated attempts over many months to persuade the other party leaders and the public to consider it.

The question they have raised is what would happen if the next election left all three parties (or groups) with roughly equal numbers of seats, so that neither Labour nor the Conservatives could form a Government without Alliance support.

They have insisted that Mrs Margaret Thatcher or Mr Neil Kinnock would have to negotiate an Alliance support for an agreed programme, or risk early defeat. And they have expressed

indignation at Mr Kinnock's dismissal of that threat and Mrs Thatcher's refusal to respond.

Mr Steel yesterday renewed his and Dr Owen's appeal to the other party leaders to say well before the next election how they would act if no party had an outright victory. And he repeated the argument which

many allusions to the possible difficulty facing the Queen.

Mr Steel yesterday gave four principles for a "balanced parliament" which all party leaders should agree in advance.

"The first principle is that it is the duty of a new parliament to ascertain whether there is leadership and policies in the House of Commons which can command the support of a majority of the members, and thus ensure stable government."

"The second principle which follows is that a process of negotiation between parties and leaders to this end is not only desirable but essential. The conventions of the constitution must find time and room for this process."

"The third principle is that no party leader should in the first instance accept more than a conditional commission from the Queen to see if he or she can form a government with majority support."

"The fourth principle is that no request for a dissolution and a second election should be made until the possibilities of negotiation for a majority have been exhausted."

If Labour emerged as the largest party, without an overall majority, the best authorities agree that the Queen would send for Mr Kinnock.

But any conditions she imposed on him at first, in accordance with Mr Steel's third principle, would be on the advice of Mrs Thatcher, her outgoing Prime Minister.

It would be for Mrs Thatcher to give advice which protected the Queen from controversy.

both men have used that it would be unfair to the Queen if the party leaders reached no prior agreement.

"We must not put on the shoulders of the Monarch the strain of picking up the pieces behind a pack of politicians determined to pursue party advantage", he said.

Members of other political parties doubt the genuineness of Mr Steel's and Dr Owen's solicitude for the Queen.

All parties have either formal or informal contact with the Queen's advisers, and it has been made plain to them that the Queen loses no sleep over the role she would have to play whatever might be the outcome of the next general election; that they need not be anxious for her, that nothing is likely to happen for which there is no constitutional precedent to guide her; and that she and her advisers have no fear of the Crown's being dragged into political controversy.

There are also senior Liberal and Social Democrats who fear that the public may not like too

Labour cash plan to cut unemployment

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Mr Roy Hattersley, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday unveiled details of how a future Labour government planned to cut unemployment by pumping money into repairing the nation's infrastructure.

He said a Labour government would have spent an extra £5 billion on infrastructure this year if it had been in power, by channelling money to spending authorities through Labour's Special Capital Investment Programme.

Mr Hattersley said he would be meeting public authorities later this year to discuss the scheme and he called on local councils, nationalised industries and health authorities to start planning work which would qualify.

For new spending projects to qualify, authorities would have to demonstrate both that new jobs would be created and the project was fulfilling a real need, such as providing housing where there was a shortage, or by replacing decaying hospitals, Mr Hattersley said that the new jobs would initially be in the construction industry and its suppliers.

"Funds will be provided

under the scheme by either low interest rate loans or capital grants. Areas of greatest need will have the full cost of the project financed by central government," Mr Hattersley said.

The Shadow Chancellor, speaking at a conference held at the House of Commons, said the funds available under the scheme would not be limitless and it would not be possible to spread them evenly across the country, according to some formula.

"The money will go to those public authorities and agencies which first demonstrate their ability to organize projects within the scheme. Within days of the election of the Labour Government we will ask for bids within the Special Programme," he said.

Mr Hattersley refused to be drawn on how much a Labour government would spend on the scheme. But he said Labour could have found an extra £5 billion this year by maintaining the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement at last year's level as a percentage of gross national product, by diverting some of the money used for tax cuts and by increasing taxes on the rich.

Passengers booked to fly to France today and tomorrow will get there eventually - by ending their journeys by coach or train.

A widespread strike by French air traffic controllers has caused airlines to draw up hurried controlling plans.

British Caledonian, which flies flights daily to Paris from Gatwick, will divert these flights to Brussels, then take passengers by coach to Paris. This will increase the journey time to the centre of Paris from 90 minutes to up to four hours.

British Airways will divert Paris flights to Brussels and take passengers on by coach. An extra flight will take passengers to Geneva and from there by train to Nice.

Shout for joy: Mike Gatting, the Middlesex cricket captain, celebrates as his team move towards a win over Warwickshire at Edgbaston to secure the county championship for the eleventh time. Only one of Middlesex's eight championship victories came while their England players were on Test duty. John Woodcock, page 26

He added: "After so much blood has been spilled in Britain and Argentina can never be quick or easy. But silence serves the interests of no one, least of all the Falkland Islanders who need most of all a stable, durable and democratic future."

Kinnock defends Alfonsin meeting

By Philip Webster and Ian Murray

Mr Neil Kinnock last night accused the Prime Minister of pusillanimity after she voiced concern, during her Middle East visit, over his Paris meeting today with Mr Raul Alfonsin, the Argentine president.

The controversy over the talks - the Labour leader and Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, are to have what was described yesterday as an exchange of views with Mr Alfonsin after Mrs Thatcher said in Cairo that she was "very deeply surprised" at Mr Kinnock's move.

"I feel it will deeply upset the people of the Falklands," she said. Britain was doing its utmost to re-establish normal relations even though Argentina had still not finally declared an end to hostilities.

Although the Foreign Office in London declined to comment on the talks, the Government is clearly apprehensive that Argentinians will take comfort from the more flexible attitude of the Labour party towards Falklands sovereignty.

Mrs Thatcher declared that the Argentinians did not want to discuss anything but sovereignty. Because of that she was surprised the meeting was taking place.

Mr Kinnock, who had been reluctant to raise the political temperature over the talks, said Mrs Thatcher's reaction was "petulant and surprising in view of the Government's recent initiatives, the latest being the decision in July to lift the embargo on Argentine imports. He said: "If anyone took the Prime Minister's attitude towards talking before countries 'formally declare an end to hostilities' there would never be any end to wars."

He added: "After so much blood has been spilled in Britain and Argentina can never be quick or easy. But silence serves the interests of no one, least of all the Falkland Islanders who need most of all a stable, durable and democratic future."

new littered with ruins, house after house packed on top of each other amid the wreckage of churches and shops.

The Christian village of Elman, clinging to a ledge above the Awali River, has simply been erased from the map, its church brought down by explosives, its homes dynamited with such speed that the vines which were growing above the roofs are now draped over the flattened concrete walls beneath.

Just one building still stands intact amid the wasteland of what used to be the Christian town of Old Abra. The grey sea of crumpled houses and apart-



Lebanon militias obliterate Christian villages

From Robert Fisk

The former town of Elman Central Lebanon

In the most deliberate act of destruction in ten years of civil war in Lebanon, Druze and Muslim militias have systematically dynamited and razed more than 12 Christian villages east of the city of Sidon.

Well over 1,000 buildings, including apartment blocks, shops, churches, villas and schools, have been levelled in a ruthless attempt to ensure that the Christians who fled during the fighting around Sidon in April can never return to their homes and re-populate the area.

The wholesale destruction, which is continuing in the town of Jiye, on the coast road to Beirut north of Sidon, is, however, also an act of revenge.

The Christian Phalangist militia destroyed at least two Druze villages during the Chouf mountain war in 1983, massacring many of the inhabitants before blasting their homes down on top of their bodies.

It was the Phalangist which started this year's fighting above Sidon, firing shells into

the city and the Palestinian camp there, an act which led directly to the Muslim advance and the subsequent destruction of the Christian villages.

On the hills further to the east, the magnificent new hospital built by Mr Rafiq Hariri, the Sunni Muslim multimillionaire, has been gutted and looted by Christians, apparently to prevent Muslims ever going there for treatment. Lebanon has thus been deprived of the best medical facilities for heart ailments in the whole country.

Nevertheless, the steps taken by the Druze, and in some cases by Sunni Muslim



The 1974 wedding photograph of Herta-Astrid and Herbert Willner now investigated for espionage.

Kohl's secretary joins long line of Bonn defectors

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

West Germany's spy scandal finally reached into the most important department of the Government yesterday.

Frau Herta-Astrid Willner, a long-serving secretary in the office of Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, was revealed to have defected to East Germany with her husband, Herr Herbert Willner, a defence analyst with the Research Institute of the Free Democrats, the liberal party which has been in every government since 1969.

Investigations for suspected espionage were started against both. As an extra embarrassment to the Government, there were reports that the couple had been able to escape even though at least one of them had been under suspicion for spying.

The couple are believed to have left Bonn on the weekend of August 10 for a holiday in Spain. They were due back at their respective offices on Monday. When Herr Willner failed to return his institute telephoned the hotel in Spain and was told that, 10 days before, they had said they were leaving for a one-day trip to Andorra but had not returned.

Early yesterday, express letters from an East Berlin lawyer were delivered to the Chancellery, and to the institute, containing hand-written letters from the couple. Each said that they were resigning from their posts. Herr Willner said he was doing so because he feared arrest "for an offence against the external security of the Federal Republic of Germany".

Frau Willner's letter was reported to say that she had "decided" to go with him.

Later, the Government spokesman issued a statement in Bonn confirming the defections and the Federal Public Prosecutor's office at Karlsruhe began its investigation.

It revealed that Herr Hans-Joachim Tiedge, the West German counter-espionage official who defected to East Germany last month, had twice investigated Herr Willner on suspicion of spying. A spokes-

man for the Karlsruhe office said: "We cannot exclude the theory that Tiedge warned the East Germans they were being checked out."

There was no evidence that the Willners' flight was linked to the defection of the KGB agent, Mr Oleg Gordievsky, to Britain. West German officials denied a news agency report here that Frau Willner had access to exchanges between the United States and the Chancellery which were connected with the American Space Defence Initiative. But it was thought possible she might have had access to documents about Eureka, the European high-technology programme.

She was born in Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and brought up in the West. She married Herr Willner, aged 59, in 1974. Her career seemed to be that of the typical, senior Bonn secretary.

More is known of her husband. He was born in China, but his family returned to Germany when he was three. During the Second World War, he served in the Waffen-SS.

Continued on back page, col 6

Batteries condemned by farm watchdogs

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

The battery cage system of egg production is unacceptable on welfare grounds, according to the Government's official advisory body, the Farm Animal Welfare Council.

As more than 90 per cent of the eggs produced in Britain are laid by hens in cages, the council's conclusion could have profound implications for the industry. It will, at least, encourage animal welfare groups to put further pressure on the Government to make changes in the regulations, if not ban cages altogether.

The council's comments on egg production systems come not in a report to the Ministry of Agriculture but in a consultative document having comments from the industry, and in particular from retailers.

The main argument hitherto used against alternatives to cages is that they would increase prices and thus reduce consumption.

The document reiterates the council's guiding principles - that all farm animals should be free and should be provided with appropriate comfort and shelter, prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment of injury and disease, and freedom to display their most natural patterns of behaviour.

It says that, while the battery cage system meets some of its welfare criteria, the extreme confinement in a physically barren environment denies or seriously restricts the birds' freedom to express natural patterns of behaviour. They may suffer chronic discomfort, it says.

The council also expresses disapproval of multi-tiered, slatted or wire-floored houses without any floor litter.

Thatcher sees peace role for some PLO

From Ian Murray

Cairo

Little-known members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "who have totally rejected terrorism" will need to be included in the next round of negotiations to restart the Middle East peace process, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said here yesterday.

She was speaking after a two-hour meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, most of which was spent considering how to give fresh impetus to the stalled peace process. The "vital step", she said, was to draw up a list of names of those to take part in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which would also be acceptable to the United States.

Those names should not include people who have been extremely prominent in the PLO, but members of the PLO who reject terrorism," she said. This definition would exclude Mr Yasser Arafat.

Neither Britain nor the United States could ever accept dealing with people who used terrorism to try to force diplomatic negotiations. There were, however, a number of PLO members who had nothing to do with terrorism and whose names were known. She would be discussing this with King Husain during her meeting with him in Amman later this week.

Britain is providing an aid grant of £12.5 million together with credit of £37.5 million towards a £50 million investment to redevelop Maghara coal mine in Sinai as Egypt's first mechanized long-wall coal mine. The aid agreement will be signed today.

Babcock Contractors Ltd have been awarded the contract to supervise the project and under the terms of the aid agreement, contracts for equipment supplies will go to British companies.

Crane used in cash raid

Armed raiders used a mobile crane to smash their way into a security van near Brentwood, Essex, yesterday. Shots were fired at the security men and at police who gave chase. No one was hurt.

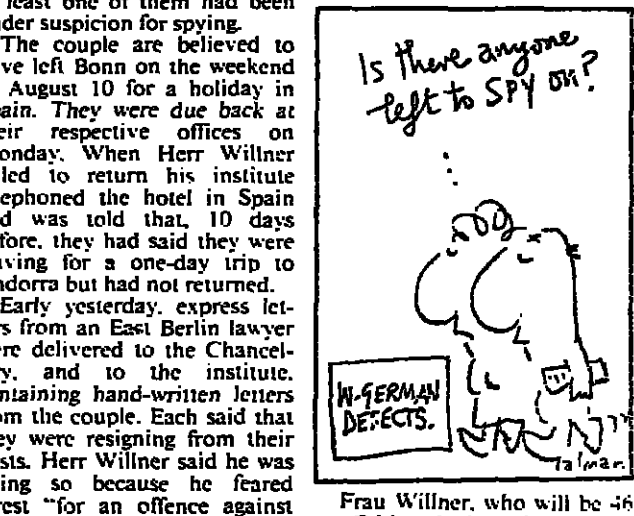
Several bags of money were later found in an abandoned getaway vehicle. It was not known whether the entire haul had been recovered. Scotland Yard said.

The Brink's Mat security van

was travelling north on the A128 near Brentwood where it was forced to stop by two lorries blocking the road. The raiders used the crane to smash open the back of the van and drove off in a brown Range Rover which was later abandoned.

Soon after the robbery two cars held up a police car, and armed men forced two police officers out of the car and took their keys.

Two men were later arrested.



Heart of Soviet spy ring 'is now broken'

The heart of the Soviet Union's spy ring in London has been broken, the Prime Minister said in Cairo yesterday.

"That is a very great achievement from the viewpoint of the security of Britain," Mrs Thatcher added at the start of her visit to Egypt.

The Prime Minister said that she hoped Britain's expulsion of six more Soviet diplomats would put an end to the conflict.

"We still wish, in the context of East-West relations, recognizing that although we are totally different in our political views, we both have to live in the same world and we do not wish to have conflict between the Soviet peoples and our peoples."

She hoped that it would now be possible to try to secure agreements on fewer armaments and banning chemical weapons.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin is expected to announce a decision today on whether to expel more Britons on a tit-for-tat basis.

Mr Denis Davies, Labour's defence spokesman, flew to Moscow yesterday. He hopes to see Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, but he not carrying a message on the British government's behalf.

Journalist denies spying, Page 2



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Scargill devises strategy to defeat Kinnock over pit strike pledge

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Miners' leaders and left-wing allies have devised a strategy which they are confident will lead to Mr Neil Kinnock's defeat at the Labour Party conference over the reimbursement of £1 million to the National Union of Mineworkers.

A composite motion has been drawn up to make it as difficult as possible for unions, particularly the Transport and General Workers' Union, to oppose.

A confidential draft instigated by Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, and close colleagues emphasizes that the call for reimbursement of money "confiscated" in fines and legal costs during the 12-month pit strike is TUC and Labour Party policy.

Analyses by left and right indicate that Mr Kinnock will be defeated unless the TUC, the largest affiliate with a 1.25 million block vote, withdraws support for the miners.

A worst case left-wing estimate of likely voting patterns at the Bournemouth conference, starting on Monday week, suggests that of the 6.6 million votes, the "anti-Scargill" faction can at best rely on 2.9 million. But the 3.7 million votes on

which they are counting to support the miners' motion depend on the TGWU, which supported the miners at the TUC Congress this month.

The union executive meets tomorrow, but the decision rests with the conference delegation which is not due to meet until the eve of conference.

Mr Ron Todd, TGWU general secretary, who has voiced reservations about the miners' stance has been seeking a compromise to avoid the union having to embarrass Mr Kinnock, the party leader. Mr Todd is one of Mr Kinnock's strongest supporters.

One way out being considered by right-wing members of the Labour national executive committee is for the executive to draft a statement giving full backing to the NUM's call for reinstatement and a review of the cases of all jailed miners, but which soft pedals on reimbursement.

Some executive members believe that if a statement bearing the imprimatur of Mr Kinnock comes before the executive, the 16-13 majority on which he can usually rely will authorize him to make the

statement, on their behalf, to the conference.

The right's argument continues that the TGWU would be faced with abstaining in the cause of party unity or supporting the miners' compromise, which would be seen as a substantial rebuff for Mr Kinnock.

The NUM motion at the TUC was carried by the narrow margin of 64,000 votes but several opposing unions, including the 780,000-strong Nalco are not affiliated to the Labour Party.

Mr Clive Jenkins's ASTMS has decided to switch its 120,000 votes to oppose the NUM. Another likely candidate to change its vote is the construction union Ucu, which has 171,000 votes.

Coal production at Keresley colliery, Coventry, stopped yesterday when more than 1,000 miners staged a 24-hour strike in support of "men dismissed during the pit strike."

Two hundred jobs are to be lost at Warsop colliery on the Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire border, the coal board said yesterday.

First black wins top union post

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

The first black man to win a top union job was appointed by the Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday.

He is Bill Morris, aged 46, the union's senior busmen's official.

Mr Morris won 20 votes against the 17 of Mr Larry Smith, the union's executive officer after an exhaustive ballot.

Mr Ron Todd, the union's deputy general secretary, had earlier made a strong speech of support for Mr Morris when he called on the executive to complete the installation of a new team at the top of the country's biggest union.

The appointment of Mr Morris must raise the prospect of his eventually becoming the first black general secretary and one of the most powerful union leaders in Britain as he is bound to run for election for the top job when Mr Todd steps down.

Mr Morris is practically certain to take over the union's seat on the Labour Party national executive from the current deputy Mr Alex Kitson, next October.

He will work in tandem with Mr Kitson as deputy general secretary designate until Mr Kitson retires next year.

The appointment of Mr Morris is likely to be welcomed by Mr Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, not least because Mr Morris, as easily the most influential black union official, has already come out publicly against separate black sections within the Labour Party. Mr Morris, who is a member of the Commission for Racial Equality, has made it clear that while he accepts many of the criticisms made by supporters of black sections, he does not accept their solution.

Mr Morris, who is married with two grown-up sons, said yesterday that he was delighted "that the executive has placed this degree of confidence in me."

"As regards my colour, I am not the black candidate. I am



Victor: Bill Morris

the candidate who just happens to be black."

He added: "My candidacy and my appointment will be of added value to the TGWU and the wider Labour Movement."

"It shows that the system works. It means that ethnic minorities can take up positions of responsibility in the Labour movement."

Mr Morris came to Birmingham from Jamaica in 1954 and was brought up in Handsworth, scene of last week's rioting.

Mr Morris's candidacy received a considerable boost when he secured the backing of the broad left on the executive, the biggest single grouping. In preference to Mr Smith.

But it suffered a setback last Friday when the union's inner cabinet drew up a five-strong shortlist which excluded Mr Morris.

The names on it were those of Mr Smith, Mr Malcolm Snow and Mr Joe Mills, both regional secretaries, Mr Fred Howell, the power group secretary, and Mr Albert Blyton the union's legal officer.

The executive however reversed the finance and general purposes committee recommendation and insisted on seeing all 10 of the candidates still in the race.

Fund raiser returns to Tory HQ

By Richard Evans

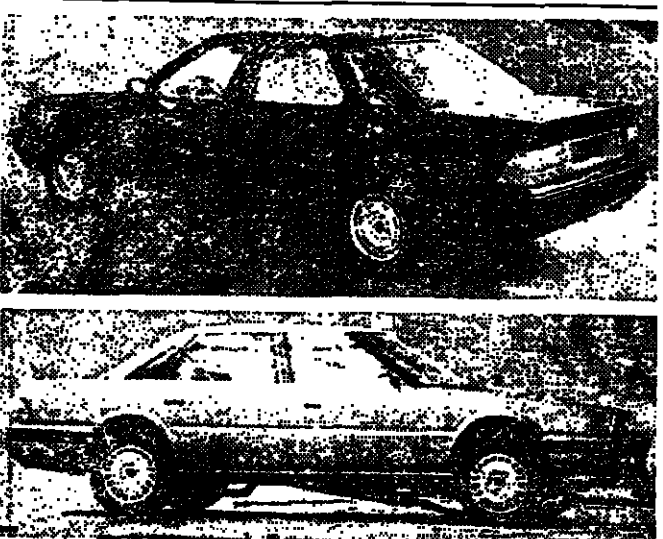
Lord McAlpine of West Green, in charge of fund-raising for the Conservative Party for the past decade, is returning to his job at Central Office after the departure of Mr John Gummer as party chairman.

While, in theory, he has never stopped being joint treasurer, he ceased day-to-day involvement earlier this year after sharp differences of opinion with Mr Gummer.

The disagreement is believed, in some quarters, to have contributed to the removal of Mr Gummer as party chairman. As one senior source described it: "the fly in the ointment has gone."

After Mr Norman Tebbit's appointment as party chairman in Mrs Thatcher's recent Cabinet reshuffle, Lord McAlpine has agreed to return to the job. He has spent several weeks in Australia, where, apart from looking after business interests, he has been tracking crocodiles.

With a general election possibly only two years away, he faces a tough job building up the party's coffers. It is understood that crucial donations from companies have continued to slide after their estimated 11 per cent fall to £2.2 million in 1984.



Pre-production models (top) of the Rover 600 series, which is due to be launched early next year. A feature is the high boot. Below is a view of the Rover 625. The cars will be offered with a range of engines including a 2.5 litre, 24-valve V6 (Photographs: Car).

Teachers lead pay chase after council workers' 8%

By Barrie Clement and Lucy Hodges

Leaders of Britain's teachers and Civil Servants yesterday registered their determination to pursue the 8 per cent pay package won by council manual workers.

A settlement of the nine-month-old schools dispute on the basis of a formal offer of 5.8 per cent or even the tentative figure of 6.9 per cent, was now out of the question, teachers' representatives said.

Mr Alistair Graham, general secretary of the largest Whitehall union, the 150,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association, said the Government would now find it "extremely difficult" to ignore the aspirations of 100,000 of his members

who earn less than £100 a week.

Mr John Sheldon, leader of the Civil Service Union, where more than half of the 40,000 members are paid less than £100, hailed the manual workers' offer as a breakthrough on low pay which would put considerable pressure on the Treasury.

The offer to the million council workers involves a proposal to merge the bottom three grades would give those on the lowest pay an increase of nearly 12 per cent. An overall 6.6 per cent rate rise has been offered, breaking the tradition of offering percentage rises and "penalizing" those near the poverty line.

The Treasury, due to put proposals on long-term pay determination to civil service unions at the end of October, said that deals drawn up by local authorities could not be compared with those envisaged by central government.

Negotiators for the councils yesterday pointed out that because the manual workers' offer was lower than that for teachers, the wage bill for council workers is £2,755m compared with £4,317m for teachers.

The most directly comparable group, the 250,000 health ancillary workers, seem ready to accept a £3.55 a week rise, which will be back-dated to April 1 and which will add nearly 47 per cent to the pay bill.

One chastening factor for the euphoria engendered by the manual workers' package is the fact that it could lead to considerable job losses. It is left to each council how it will finance the increase and many will

feel that redundancies are the only answer.

The leaders of the teachers' unions reacted swiftly to the news of the pay rise for manual workers. "If the local authorities can find the money for one group, they must be able to find the money for another," said Mr Geoffrey Beryon, joint general secretary of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

"It really strikes me as quite remarkable that you can settle the manual workers without reference to the central government for resources, but you can't settle the teachers without relying on central government money to help you negotiate and settle this year," said Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers. "I don't think that

fact will be lost of the teachers' organizations."

Meanwhile, a split has emerged between the teachers' unions over last week's offer from the employers. The Secondary Heads Association says that it should have been accepted and that the biggest teachers' union, The National Union of Teachers, was wrong to reject it.

Mr Peter Snape, general secretary of the NUT, said he was appalled by the prospect of intensified industrial action in the schools when this offer was on the table. Mr Snape was referring to the 6.9 per cent figure which the employers said they might go to after their 5.85 per cent offer had been rejected.

Police chief tells of riot locusts in Handsworth

By Craig Seton

The police chief investigating the Handsworth riots yesterday described a horrifying saga of looting, some as young as 14, stripping shops "like locusts".

He said marauding gangs of street robbers forced victims to take off their trousers to get at their money.

Mr Tom Meffan, an assistant chief constable of the West Midlands police, said that so far there had been 291 arrests since the violence of 10 days ago and that 75 people had been charged with looting, arson, burglary and robbery.

In the first detailed description of the violence, Mr Meffan said his squad of 150 detectives had recovered "van loads" of stolen goods from some houses.

A jeweller's shop has lost £40,000 in stock, a cycle shop was stripped of £30,000 of machines and a post office lost £20,000 in cash. He said: "We will never, ever be able to determine exactly how much was taken because I cannot differentiate completely between what was stolen and what was gutted by fire. But I expect many more arrests and I will finish his enquiry even if it takes until Christmas to interview everyone I believe was involved."

Mr Meffan described how looters and arsonists using petrol bombs operated behind barricades of burning cars in a section of Lozells Road - where two brothers died in a blazing post office - as police fought "block by block" to regain control.

He said three categories of criminals had been in action the night of the riot. They were:

- Hard core criminals who used crowbars to force up shop shutters and bolt cutters to cut through wire grills to get to goods inside.
- People "thoroughly enjoying committing damage" who smashed up paving slabs and threw missiles wherever they could; and
- A group "possessed by pure greed, looting and stripping shops like locusts and then setting them on fire, mostly using petrol bombs."

Mr Meffan said youths as young as fourteen had been involved in the looting. Those arrested were mostly aged between 15 and 25.

He denied police had been unduly late in getting into the area, as residents have said.

Mr Meffan said his gut reaction was that the looting and arson had not been orchestrated or organized.

● James Hazell, of Merryhill Drive, Winslow Green, who is alleged to be the man seen in newspaper photographs throwing a petrol bomb during the Handsworth disturbances, appeared before a Birmingham court yesterday charged with criminal damage by fire.

Expelled Russian 'bitter'

Soviet journalist denies spying

The journalist among the six Russians whose expulsions from Britain were announced on Monday yesterday rejected outright the charge that he had been spying and said he was "bitter and disappointed" at being expelled.

Mr Sergey Volovets, the London correspondent of Novosti, told *The Times*: "Of course these accusations are absolutely without any foundation at all."

"I have spent approximately two years working in London as Novosti correspondent and writing pieces for the *Literary Gazette* and that was the only work in which I was involved. There was no single case in which the British Secret Service might think that I do work not connected with journalistic duties."

It was "a matter of chance" that he had been picked on, he said. Five of the 15 accredited Soviet journalists in London had already been expelled, leaving "not many of us to choose from."

"My main theme was the situation with human rights in Britain. I made several stories about Northern Ireland, the miners' strike, civil liberties and race relations. Maybe some officials were irritated by these writings, so decided to choose me."

Mr Volovets believes the expulsions may be connected with the forthcoming Geneva summit between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and with the general improvement of Anglo-Soviet relations.

"There are some forces inside the British ruling establishment which try somehow to stop the development of these relations," he said. "They have some vested interests in anti-Sovietism and anti-Communism. They have vested interests in continuing anti-

Mr Volovets is 47, married, and has a married daughter aged 25 who lives in Moscow and two daughters aged 24 living with him in London.

He began as a teacher of Russian language and literature, but quickly switched to journalism and has worked for Novosti for 23 years. His previous foreign posting was, incidentally, in Copenhagen, alongside Mr Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB chief in London whose defection triggered the expulsions. Mr Volovets insists they never met.

Under normal circumstances Mr Volovets would have served a further year in London before returning to Moscow, but yesterday - having heard the news of his expulsion from a friend on the *Morning Star* - he was packing instead.

"It is sad for me that my stay here has been shortened in such an abrupt and unpleasant way," he said.

"I am disappointed but I have no bitter feelings against the British people and my friends in general. I enjoyed staying here because I like the



Sergey Volovets at his home yesterday. He says spying accusations against him are without foundation. (Photograph: John Voos.)

British people and the British culture. I am only bitter towards the people who expelled me."

Two of the Soviet spies ordered last Friday to leave Britain had had applications to attend next month's Conservative Party conference in Blackpool approved. It was disclosed last night (Philip Webster, Political Reporter, writes).

Mr Yuri Kudimov, a correspondent with *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Communist youth newspaper, and Mr Sergey Sayenko, a correspondent with Radio Moscow, who were in the first batch of 25 expulsions, had been given credentials along with four other Soviet journalists.

Mr Kudimov and Mr Viktor Mozalev, a Tass correspondent and another of the spies ordered last Friday, had also applied to attend the Labour Party conference in Bournemouth.

Legal aid cases

Boost for low-fee barristers

A campaign to increase payments to barristers for legal aid criminal cases will be boosted by statistics in a study published today.

The average net income for a London barrister specializing in criminal cases paid for by public funds was only £8,800 in 1983-84, the survey showed. This figure is for a barrister with 10 to 15 years in practice.

But if such a barrister combined criminal with other work, he got £16,190 in London and £19,130 in the provinces, according to a *Study of Remuneration of Barristers carrying out Criminal Legal Aid*. The study by Coopers & Lybrand Associates, is the first of its kind prepared for the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar.

The provincial figures are higher because barristers there handle a more remunerative type of case on the civil side and the cost of the practice is lower. The figures are before tax.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, chairman of the Bar, said yesterday he accepted the report and would put it forward as containing recommendations which should be accepted by the Government. The increase in scales proposed should be met, he said.

The average net income of a London specialist in criminal legal aid cases would be £12,860 after 16 years or more in practice.

"The incomes of self-employed barristers who specialize in publicly-funded criminal defence work would need to be

increased by between 30 per cent and 40 per cent at current rates if they were to be put on a similar earnings basis to Government legal servants, it says.

The survey also shows, however, that theoretically barristers in criminal legal aid could earn more if they were in court during the year for 210 fee-earning days, and assuming they were working at maximum capacity.

The figures show that the middle level of fees in such circumstances could be £12,500

provinces after 10-15 years. The figures are based on 1984/85 fee scales.

There are about 5,200 practising barristers in England and Wales. Between 2,000 and 3,000 practising in London and the provinces, are thought to be dependent on criminal work. Almost all criminal work carried out by barristers is publicly funded.

The object of the survey was to define "conservative but realistic assumptions as to the amount of criminal legal aid work which barristers could carry out in a full year, the fees they might attract for that work, their costs of practice and their net income before tax."

Income progression for barristers between five years service and 15 is shown to be generally very poor. The expenses of London-based barristers absorb between one third and one half of their fees. Among provincial barristers, expenses are about 35 per cent.

Barristers' total fees for criminal legal aid work are thought to be about £40 million each year. Assuming no change in the volume and mix of the criminal work handled by barristers, the cost of the report's proposals would be about £12.5 million in a full year at current prices. With an equivalent increase in the fees for prosecution work, the total cost might be about £25 million.

The Law Society said yesterday it was having a similar survey among solicitors.

There are 21 Soviet ancillary organisations in Britain. They are:

- USSR Mission to the IMO (International Maritime Organization); Aeroflot; UMO (Baltic Group); Russian Wood Agency; Technical and Optical Equipment Nafte GB Ltd (outlet for Soviet oil); Razno & Co (all other Soviet imports except non-ferrous metals and rubber); Razno Import UK Ltd (Non-ferrous metals and rubber); Black Sea & Baltic Insurance; Freight (Freight Agency); Anglo-Soviet Shipping Co (ASSCO); Moscow Narodny Bank; Intourist (Moscow) Ltd; Bonifont (Suppliers of coal and oil for shipping); Pribor (Tass); Pribor; Komsomolskaya Pravda; Izvestia; Soviet Radio and TV; Socialist Industry; Novosti.

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King in Dublin for talks on Ulster

Talks on Anglo-Irish relations began in Dublin yesterday between Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Republic's foreign minister.

It is the first meeting between these two key figures in the Anglo-Irish process since Mr King's appointment. He arrived in Dublin under tight security for the meeting. No formal announcement of the impending visit was made. Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish prime minister, is due to have an informal meeting with him later.

The talks came at a crucial stage in the Anglo-Irish discussions on the future of Ulster with pressure growing for agreement to pave the way for a summit. Outstanding issues such as security and reform of the Ulster Defence Regiment remain.

A small group of demonstrators greeted Mr King as he arrived at the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. They chanted slogans demanding an end to strip searches at Armagh women's prison in Ulster. Minor scuffles broke out.

Mr King's visit angered Unionist politicians in Northern Ireland. Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists said: "That Mr King sees it as his priority to meet foreign ministers in advance of the local unionist leaders is deeply offensive and a clear signal which is indicative of how he sees his policy being directed."

● The reputed leader of the Irish National Liberation Army, Dominic McGlinchey, aged 32, who was Ireland's most wanted man at the time of his arrest in the republic in October last year, appeared in the Northern Ireland High Court yesterday on the first day of an appeal against a murder conviction.

Computer firm investigation

Fraud squad detectives are investigating alleged irregularities in the Parrot Corporation, based at Cwmbran, Gwent, which last year became Britain's first fully integrated manufacturer of computer floppy discs with the help of a £4 million government grant and further private funding.

Mr John Butterswick, chairman of the company, which employs 110 people, said yesterday: "Questions arose over the original financial package and the matter has been referred to the police for further investigation."

Wounding charge

Peter Lane, aged 52, unemployed, of Pencroft Road, Barry, South Wales, was remanded on bail at Cowbridge Magistrates' Court, yesterday, accused of wounding Mr Trevor Thompson and possessing a 12-bore shotgun and cartridges with intent to endanger life.

Dole course

Kent University, Canterbury, is holding a £40, two-day seminar to give people an insight into how the unemployed survive on the dole. A spokesman said yesterday: "This course is ideal for anyone who is about to be made redundant."

Statue burnt

Vandals have destroyed a wooden sculpture marking the centenary of the birth of D. H. Lawrence days before it was due to be completed. They set fire to the 6ft high wooden structure at Brinsley colliery near the writer's birthplace in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire.

Bank expansion

Unity Trust, the bank set up 18 months ago by Co-op Bank and the trade unions, is considering broadening its spread of shareholders. It is preparing to become a public limited company which would enable it to offer shares more widely to individual union members.

Lodging appeal

A London couple who on Monday won their appeal against the Government's new board and lodging cash limits will not be paid in full pending an appeal lodged yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Gift to school

Shiplake College, a small independent school near Henley-on-Thames has been given a donation of about £50,000, by the Sultan of Oman, a neighbour, in response to an appeal for its building fund.

£1m Iona plea

An appeal for £1 million to save the medieval buildings on Iona in the Western Isles of Scotland, was launched yesterday in Edinburgh.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$2.75; Canada \$2.75; Central Europe £1.50; Denmark 12.50; France 12.50; Germany 12.50; Greece 12.50; Hong Kong 12.50; India 12.50; Italy 12.50; Japan 12.50; Korea 12.50; Malaysia 12.50; Mexico 12.50; New Zealand 12.50; Norway 12.50; Pakistan 12.50; Portugal 12.50; Singapore 12.50; South Africa 12.50; Spain 12.50; Sweden 12.50; Switzerland 12.50; Taiwan 12.50; Thailand 12.50; Turkey 12.50; USA 12.50; USSR 12.50; West Germany 12.50; Yugoslavia 12.50.

Ford ordered to resume exports of right-hand drive cars to Britain

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

European Court of Justice in Luxembourg ordered yesterday that Ford must resume exports of right-hand drive cars to Britain. The court's decision was a victory for British motorists, but it provoked a dispute between the company and the British Association about the details of the order.

The association described it as a "victory" for the four-year fight to force European car makers to make their cars freely available to British motorists. It said the decision was a "major step" towards the goal of a single market.

The EEC Transport Commissioner, Mr Stanley Clinton-Davis, welcomed the ruling and said it would allow manufacturers to supply cars to the Common Market. But he insisted that the new regulations would have more teeth with the ruling.

Dr Murray Mackay, director of the accident research unit at

Birmingham University, told a conference of casualty surgeons in London that design regulations of steering wheels were inadequate.

Dr Mackay described the introduction of seat-belt laws as "perhaps the most significant public health measure for a generation".

"Rear belts provide two benefits. They help the rear passengers themselves and they protect the front seat occupants from the 'flying mother-in-law' syndrome."

"However, the seat belt geometry in many rear seats is far from optimal. We can expect an even bigger increase in abdominal and lumbar spine injuries for rear passengers once they adopt seat belts."

Traffic collisions cost Britain £1.5 billion annually, but less than £500,000 was being spent on research into crash injuries, he said.

Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield and co-chairman of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety, called on the Government to set up a national transport safety board and a permanent select committee on transport safety.

Memories of a better 'ole



A detail of Bruce Bairnsfather's most famous "better 'ole" cartoon (top). Bruce Bairnsfather (left). A cartoon of Hitler (top right) and the cartoonist's last drawing (bottom).

Old Bill was enduring the unpeakable privations and dangers of the trenches on the Western Front in November 1915 when to a complaining comrade he uttered that most enduring embodiment of English stoicism: "Well, if you knows of a better 'ole, go to it."

He was the creation of the cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather. Stage plays and films based on his character were a success and 70 years after the first

appearance of "the 'ole", Old Bill may be in for a revival on the publication of the first full biography. *In Search of The Better 'Ole*, by Tonie and Valmai Holt (Milestone Publications, £11.95).

Woman was 'equally qualified' for top job

Scotland's Equal Opportunities Commissioner told an industrial tribunal yesterday that she was as well qualified for a top post with the commission as the man who got the job.

Professor Angela Bowey, aged 44, was being cross-examined on the second day of a Glasgow hearing into her claim that she was discriminated against because of her sex when she applied for the £26,000-a-year post of chief executive of the commission.

In addition to her part-time work for the commission, Professor Bowey, of Arrochar, Dunbartonshire, holds the chair of business administration at Strathclyde University and is director of its pay and awards research centre.

In answer to a question from Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for the commission, Professor Bowey said that, in terms of management and administrative experience, she felt she was as well qualified for the job as Mr Alan Hart, who was appointed.

Professor Bowey had been told she was not included on the shortlist because of her lack of management and administrative experience.

Professor Bowey said that whereas she had a PhD in management, Mr Hart had only done a 10-week management course of the type she had helped to set up.

She agreed she had not performed well in relation to the filling-in and returning of emergency procedure forms to the commission's legal committee, and was often unable to attend meetings because they clashed with university engagements.

The tribunal continues today.

A Sheffield industrial tribunal yesterday ordered a fishmonger to pay two women more than £4,000 compensation for unfair dismissal after he dismissed six female market stall assistants because he claimed they talked too much.

Parents to plan next step in Aids case

Parents who have been keeping their children away from the Hampshire primary school attended by a boy aged nine who is carrying Aids antibodies, will meet tonight to consider their next step.

On Monday 50 out of 194 pupils at Scantaboury School, Chandler's Ford, were absent. Although parents have been assured by doctors and education staff that the disease can be transmitted only by direct blood contact, many still fear their children could pick up the virus.

The boy, a haemophilic, underwent transfusion of Factor 8 in his bloodstream early this year, to help clotting. It was later found that the blood batch had been donated by an Aids sufferer, who has since died.

Doctors have explained to parents that the boy has not yet contracted Aids, which can take up to five years to incubate. Education officials are reluctant to assuage parents' anxieties by removing him for private home tuition.

Publisher's £3m copyright loss

Lord Macmillan of Ovenden, chairman of Macmillan the publishers, revealed yesterday that copyright breaking is now costing his company £3 million a year.

Speaking at Information 85, an international conference in Bournemouth, of 1,100 librarians and information managers, Lord Macmillan urged his audience to press the Government for new legislation to deal with the urgent copyright problems caused by new technology.

"We are at the frontier and gun law is breaking out," he said. He pointed out that massive amounts of information can be stored and pirated. "The next generation of copyright-busting machinery will stoke up a witches' brew of questions."

Shout transmitted from doomed jet

A split-second shout or cry was transmitted from a Boeing 747 jet crashed into the Atlantic with the loss of 329 lives, a quest in Cork was told yesterday.

had been switched on but that nobody was speaking on it.

"There was something like a shout or a screech or a noise at the end of the carrier wave. It lasted just a fraction of a second."

Mr Englington said that the microphone could have been in the pilot's head set.

Mr Englington told the inquest that, apart from the carrier wave, tapes of the communications between air traffic control at Shannon indicated nothing unusual.

Professor Cumin Doyle, professor of pathology at University College, Cork, said no evidence of an explosion was found on the 131 bodies recovered. There was no evidence of burning, no noxious fumes, or explosive substances.

However, he agreed with the coroner that an explosion could have taken place in another vital part of the plane.

Dead boy's mother 'not told' of trip

The mother of a boy aged six who drowned in the Serpentine in Hyde Park during a trip organized by social workers told an inquest yesterday that she had not been told about the outing and had not been asked for her permission.

Mrs Yvonne Wright told Westminster coroners' court that her son, Adrian, who lived with her at Inville Road, Waltham, in south London, could not swim.

The coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, was told there were 500 people in the Serpentine lido shortly after midday on July 21 when the child wandered off from the children's paddling pool in the picnic area.

The party from the council-controlled Chaplin Centre on the Aylesbury Estate in Waltham, had arrived at the lido shortly before. The boy was one of seven children, aged five to nine, being supervised on a day centre-outing by two adults.

Mr Lance Richard, a social worker, employed by Southwark council for 10 years, said he last saw the boy with two small girls beside the paddling pools. He left to fetch the other four boys who were paddling in the diving board. When he returned the boy had disappeared.

Police sergeant John Backley said the boy was recovered near one of the diving boards. A slope increased the depth of the water from 4ft 6in to 13ft very quickly.

The hearing was adjourned until today when the jury will decide on their verdict.

The hearing was adjourned until today when the jury will decide on their verdict.

Teenager killed boy, 7, after fight over toy

A schoolboy was yesterday sentenced to two years detention for killing a playmate aged seven after an argument over a broken toy.

Bristol Crown Court was told that Luke Cann tripped and fell into a river near his home in the city as he was being chased by Keith Tiley, aged 14. He was found drowned four days later.

Tiley, who could not swim, went for help on his bicycle. But later he decided to lie, inventing stories that his companion had disappeared as they played hide-and-seek together in a local park. He also claimed that the driver of a distinctive white Ford Escort had been watching them as they played.

A massive police hunt was launched for the car but, when the boy's body was found, Tiley, of Mogg Street, St Werburgh's, Bristol, confessed to the police. He said he and his companion were playing by the riverside when there was an argument over a toy coach which had been broken earlier. Tiley said the young boy tried to run, but he grabbed him, held him and punched him. As the boy tried to escape he tripped and fell into the water.

Tiley is already in a special secure unit at Kingswood, near Bristol, and the judge, Sir Hilary Talbot, said he did not know whether he might remain there. The judge said he would not make an order forbidding identification of Tiley.



Mr Russell (left) and Mr Double (right) underwriter in death fall 'had met criminals'

Joy's underwriter who dived 200 feet from the 11th floor of a Mallorca balcony, with debts of £100 and life insurance of £1 million may have been in to meet suspected criminal inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Russell was told by Mr James Double, a man wanted by the police in connection with bogus mortgage applications which have dodged building societies by law.

British couple who met Mr Russell, aged 43, from Flushing, said at Magaluf saw him with two men, one resembling a photograph of Mr Russell, who left his Truro firm in Spain.

Robert Haymes and his wife, Ann, of Fock, Cornwall, known to Mr Russell for 10 years.

Police have been unable to establish the purpose of Mr Russell's visit to Magaluf. His wife, Diane, aged 42, said he

was there on business but they never discussed his work.

Mr Haymes said that Mr Russell had told him there was "a lot of hot money" in Spain but said nothing about his business.

Mr Robert Moxon-Browne, counsel for Gresham's life insurance company and Home Life Insurers, said: "Russell was frantic. He went to do a last desperate deal with this man Double."

The coroner, Mr Edward Carleton, said the link between Mr Russell and Mr Double was purely speculative.

Nine years ago, Mr Russell was cleared of strangling his first wife, Susan, and dumping her body in a river. The same day he announced his intention of marrying his second wife, who was then married to her solicitor, Mr Hugh Malden.

Mr Malden is acting for Mrs Russell in her claim against the insurance companies, who are refusing to honour Mr Russell's life policies.

The inquest will resume today.

Scientist to study psychic phenomena

By Ronald Faux

The first occupant of the chair of parapsychology at Edinburgh University will be a sophisticated observer whose job will be to debunk psychic phenomena, but to point out any genuine explanations.

Robert Morris, aged 42, senior research scientist in school of computer and information science at Syracuse University, New York State, takes up the Edinburgh made possible by a

£500,000 endowment from the Koster trustees next month.

Dr Morris said yesterday he would take an objective look at whatever evidence was presented to his team, and was fully prepared for the possibility of "finding something radically new."

Dr Morris hopes to engage other university departments, together with laboratory and computer scientists, in his research.

He admitted to one psychic experience, an experiment involving a man who correctly identified more than 60 per cent of photographs in a concealed year-book, which Dr Morris claimed was impressive and excluded chance.

While he has an open mind about "God, ghosts and the inexplicable, fortune tellers and palm readers clearly do not impress him."

He said they were the most common examples of psychic deceivers.

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LIBERAL ASSEMBLY/DUNDEE Williams warning Pension rights Star Wars Election plans

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Mr Paddy Ashdown played a major role in last year's conference as the hero of the Liberal left. As the dashing new MP for Yeovil, he was received with enthusiasm as he moved from one fringe meeting to another.

Then, in the critical debate of the week, he played a principal part in persuading the conference to reject Mr Steel's advice and to vote for the immediate withdrawal of all cruise missiles from Britain. It was a performance which did not endear Mr Ashdown to his parliamentary colleagues, but it won him many friends in the party.

This year his role is, if anything, even more prominent. But no longer is he the hero of the left. He moved from one fringe meeting to another, but this time he is met with the outraged protests of his own admirers who deplore his conversion to a freeze on nuclear weapons, with its acceptance for the time being of those already here.

Women's fury at 'betrayal'

It is the classic fate of the serious and ambitious politician who builds a constituency among idealists and botheads. He comes to recognize the need for compromise to get things done. But for them to compromise is to be contaminated.

The most dramatic occasion so far this week in Dundee was at a fringe meeting on Monday evening when Mr Ashdown confronted the full emotional fury of Liberal CND, a number of them women from Greenham Common. These were women who felt scorned, and for Mr Ashdown it must have been an approximation of hell.

Their sense of betrayal was all the greater because his change of course had come as such a surprise. He kept telling them that he had been discussing his move for months. But most of his former admirers had clearly been taken unaware by his speech in Torquay last week.

Mr Ashdown met the onslaught with courage and dignity and an air of compelling logic. It was an impressive personal performance. But, unfortunately for him, it was only the air not the substance of logic that he was able to convey. Or rather, it was the logic of politics not of policy.

The essence of his case was that the resumption of arms negotiations in Geneva had changed the position. Nothing must be done to undermine whatever chance there might be of success there, and for the Liberals to keep demanding the immediate removal of all cruise missiles would reduce the pressure on the Soviet Union to compromise. Soviet leaders might hope, by waiting, to get their ends without concessions.

The first weakness in this argument is that it is not only unilateral disarmament that the Alliance has found it hard to accept; its fingers are trembling in Geneva as they pick up the news from Dundee. Does the Alliance really have such international impact?

Does Moscow hear the Alliance?

But let us suppose for a moment that Mr Ashdown is right. That the Soviet Union regards the Alliance as a potential government or partner in government, and that Moscow will therefore be influenced in its negotiations by Liberal and Social Democratic commitments.

In that case, what justification is there for Mr Ashdown making it clear that he would want to get rid of all cruise at the end of negotiations, whatever their outcome? Is that the way to extract concessions from the Soviet Union?

Either the Alliance can help to exert pressure on the Soviet Union in Geneva, in which case it should offer no hope of concessions without something in return. Or it is of no account in Geneva, in which case Mr Ashdown cannot reasonably use the resumption of talks to justify his change of tactics.

There is, however, a political logic in what he has been saying. The Alliance will be highly vulnerable in the election if the Liberals and Social Democrats are openly at odds on defence. Yet some way must be found to secure even an appearance of agreement.

It is this process of cooperative juggling that Mr Ashdown has now set in train. He may not yet have discovered a sound defence policy, but at least he has moved away from a politically impossible one.

Williams warns party against Labour - Tory onslaught

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the Social Democratic Party, warned the Liberal Assembly in Dundee yesterday that the Conservatives and Labour would use every possible device to break the unity of the Alliance.

She said: "There will be seductive invitations from the old parties, efforts to split us or even to woo away individual members of Parliament. Our mutual solidarity must be unbreakable and we must be in agreement on our objectives."

Mrs Williams, who was given a standing ovation at the end of her address, said: "The Alliance today is seen as a serious contender not only for the balance of power but even for the majority that would bring power to an Alliance government."

One of the consequences of that success - a compliment to how far they had come - would be that they would be scrutinized, examined, and criticized as never before.

"And nothing in all that we have to say will be more closely scrutinized in the next two years," she said. "Than the relationship between the Alliance partners."

"Any rift, however insignificant, any hairline fracture between us will be elevated into a confrontation, into a major clash of principle, into the possibility of chaos arising between our parties."

But Mrs Williams said that the voters were now faced with the choice between the working partnership of the Alliance and the polarization of an uncaring Conservative Government and the law-defying activities of the Labour left.

She said that there was no need for people to speculate

Today's debates

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, is to address the assembly today. There will be debates on the Gulf War, housing, education and preparing for government, as well as a question time on jobs.

MPs' worry at benefit swindles

By Richard Evans

The Government has no accurate idea how much it is losing through undetected fraud in social security benefits last year, according to a report disclosed yesterday.

Large sums of taxpayers' money may be "at risk", according to the public accounts committee. Parliament's public spending watchdog.

The all-party committee of MPs, which conducted an inquiry into fraud and abuse of benefits paid by the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS), says lack of accurate information about benefit swindles is "unsatisfactory".

According to senior DHSS officials, the only reliable method of discovering the extent of fraud involves investigating a sample of claimants; including pensioners, widows and the disabled. But ministers have shied away from permitting such an inquiry because of the intrusion it would cause.

The report says both the DHSS and the Department of Employment (DoE) have their own organizations to combat fraud but, in spite of Whitehall guidelines, the system can lead to confusion and duplication.

The MPs recommend the two departments should join forces to fight fraud. A "unified organization" would result in a more coherent approach and enable resources to be used to maximum effect.

The committee of Public Accounts, Unemployment, Prevention and Detection of National Insurance Contributions and of Fraud and Abuse relating to Benefits paid by DHSS, Stationery Office £4.40.

Help sought for dentists suffering from stress

By Martin Fletcher

A counselling service should be set up to help the "many" dentists who undergo personal crises associated with their work, the author of a survey into why qualified male dentists leave their profession concludes.

The survey, in *Dental Practice* magazine, by Mr David Gibbons, a Kent dental officer, is based on questionnaires completed by 52 dentists who gave up their jobs prematurely.

Dentistry had been the first choice of career for 85 per cent of them, yet a quarter had left before they were 30, more than half by 40, and all but seven before 50.

Half of them cited boredom



Mrs Williams: "Our solidarity must be unbreakable."

DEFENCE

Star Wars 'costly arms race fuel'

By an overwhelming majority the assembly passed a motion calling on the Government to oppose President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) because it obstructed progress towards detente and disarmament and divided Nato countries. The initiative also threatened to divert resources needed to strengthen Nato's conventional forces and perpetuated the division of the world into two hostile armed camps.

The motion also suggested that the system would, if developed, violate the anti-ballistic missile treaty.

Mr James Wallace, MP for Orkney and Shetland, proposing the motion, said the system was futuristic but also a dangerous concept and one that Liberals in government should have no truck with.

The Star Wars concept, far from being the perfect defence system, was likely to lead to a costly and dangerous escalation of the arms race.

Sir Russell Johnston, MP for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber,

said no one throughout history had been able to devise a shield without some one inventing a sword that could pierce it. Even if possible technically, it would take at least 15 years, the cost would be enormous and resources would be diverted from vital areas.

Mr Keith Watts, from Wokingham, argued that the system was used by the Conservatives to reward long and trouble-free service on the backbenches and to console dismissed ministers in sensitive constituencies.

Mr Clement Freud, MP for North-East Cambridgeshire, said such a motion 60 years ago would have been akin to asking Dracula to embrace vegetarianism.

He was against a system that perpetuated class divisions, but the answer was to reform it.

PENSIONS Schemes to cast the net wider

Reports by John Winder, Anthony Hodges and Sheila Beardsall

Reform of occupational and personal pensions to give more people pension rights, became part of Liberal party policy yesterday. The assembly passed amendments during a debate on social security reform to widen the availability of pensions rights through the early development of industry-wide schemes.

Mr Archie Kirkwood, MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire and the party's social security spokesman, criticized Mr Norman Fowler's Green Paper on social security reform.

"If Mrs Thatcher is so convinced these proposals are so good, let her put forward a White Paper and a Bill and then leave them until after the next election so that the electorate can have a proper opportunity to examine them," he said.

The riots in Handsworth had shown that a new disenfranchised society was emerging. Programmes such as *Breadline Britain* proved that the electorate was prepared to pay more to tackle the social problems.

Delegates rejected the Green Paper as being "an attack on the poorest and most disadvantaged members of society".

Mr Leighton Andrews, prospective parliamentary candidate for Gillingham, proposing the motion, said the Government was obsessed with the cost of Social Security yet it had removed details of its reform proposals from its Green Paper.

The result of the changes seemed likely to be that more people would pay more money for less benefit while nothing was to be done about the take-up of benefits as a whole.

The tone of the Government's Green Paper was based on the Conservative fear that somewhere, someone might be getting something for nothing.

They were administering a system for people whose wages would not even buy 10 Jeffrey Archer novels.

Lord Banks, Liberal spokesman on Social Security in the Lords, said the Alliance sought today for beneficiaries, not merely the promise of jam tomorrow.

CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

Preparing for government appears to be the slogan of this Liberal Party Assembly.

Speaker after speaker urged the meeting to prove to the public that they are capable of governing and at the same time to show clearly the kind of government that will emerge.

Evidence so far shows that this new government will be colour-blind. In one respect this is of course a good thing, but it is not so laudable when it is applied to the party's visual sense.

The picture has gone. The photograph of the two Davids had disappeared. In its place there is a large orange star with black lettering saying Go Liberal Alliance SDP.

This looks ill against a backdrop that is a trendy shade of pink and grey; and positively sick against a dais of yellow and Chinese red, the colours of a spring party.

If the party has no visual sense it is not surprising to discover that it also has long-brow artistic taste.

Lord Mackie, who looks and sounds aristocratic, suggested that the Caird Hall was almost as full of Liberals as it had been when Dame Kiri te Kanawa came to town.

That did not get a laugh and one must assume that the delegates had not heard of her.

However, when Shirley Williams mentioned Frank Sinatra (who has also filled this hall) it was another matter.

She, as president of the SDP, performed the statutory puffing up of the Liberal's

president-elect by saying that David Penhaligon's deft and savage wit could at any time see off Ole Blue Eyes.

It's doubtful. Penhaligon's humour, however, is certainly a threat to Terry Wogan. It must be the Celtic strain that prompts the comparison or the fact that they both roll their eyes to the gallery and laugh at their own jokes, or the fact that Penhaligon's speech was a perfect chat show mix.

Penhaligon is an engineer who looks and performs like a PR man. Alan Watson, the outgoing president, on the other hand, is a PR man who looks and performs like an engineer.

He shouldn't ad lib jokes. Attempting to tease Lord Mackie for his reference to lords and ladies, he said that all this would be made unnecessary now that the Liberals had passed a resolution denouncing political honours. The Liberals passed no such motion; they agreed that the system was a good thing which had simply been abused and now needed reforming.

It had been a bad morning for radicals, it had been a bad morning for some delegates. The chairman, Alan Sherwell, lost his temper with some people who accused him of ruining the day's timetable by letting the business debate over run.

He told those who dared to question him to sit down in a contemptuous and bitchy tone. That might just be the first sign that the Liberals are indeed ready for Westminster.

Linda Christmas

ELECTION PLANS

Alliance's resolve 'shown by allocation of seats'

Any question about the Alliance's seriousness of purpose in aiming for power and government had been dispelled by the way in which seats had been allocated between the SDP and the Liberals.

Mr Alan Watson, president of the Liberal party, said in his report. Under the present electoral system there was no Alliance unless there was agreement on which party should fight which seats. They now had agreement on all Welsh seats, on virtually all Scottish seats and on 468 in England. Agreement was pending on a further 1 seats in England and they could be confident that by the end of the year fewer than 10 seats would remain unresolved.

Mr Watson was opening the

party business session in the morning before the formal opening of the assembly. He described the past year as a period of achievement. Every Conservative MP in Scotland was gloomily aware of the retribution which would come to the party. The Liberal party was poised to sweep the Tory party from Scotland. Mr Paul Tyler, chairman of the party, presenting the annual report, said the party had made dramatic progress. He set out objectives for the next 12 months: to build on the outstanding popularity of the two Davids and on public appreciation of their partnership and to ensure the Alliance was ready and willing to think, and act as one.

Adverts on BBC would 'hit viewers'

By George Hill

Advertising as a means of financing the BBC would cost viewers more than the existing licence fee according to Mr Norman Buchan, Labour Party spokesman on the arts.

Speaking after the publication yesterday of Labour's evidence to the Peacock committee on BBC finance, Mr Buchan said the effect on media already dependent on advertising would be "extremely harmful".

The Labour evidence rejects advertising or sponsorship for the BBC and reaffirms the party's commitment to remove them if they are introduced.

Mr Buchan said: "Giving the committee a remit to consider BBC finance alone, when cable, satellite and video are changing the face of broadcasting, is to pre-empt future decisions about the structure and control of the medium. Most TV advertising is for mass market products, because it cannot be targeted easily, so the cost falls disproportionately on the prices of products bought by the poor and elderly."

The Labour submission suggests one long-term option is to replace the licence by a direct grant-in-aid.

Referring to recent controversy over the *Real Lives* documentary, the report says: "The licence fee system has failed of itself to preserve the BBC's independence." It proposes an extra levy on owners of more than one set, including businesses and hotels, to increase revenue and to make payment more socially fair.

Such a levy would help counterbalance the cost of Labour's commitment, reaffirmed by Mr Buchan, to abolish licence fees for pensioners, a change which would otherwise require increases of up to 50 per cent in existing fees.

The submission says: "Advertising is an expensive way of financing broadcasting: the current cost of ITV and Channel Four is considerably higher than that of the two BBC channels."

"Over the last 10-15 years a reduction in the real value of the licence fee has coincided with a period in which ITV revenues have almost doubled in real terms. Government unwillingness to increase the licence fee in line with inflation in programming costs has precipitated a crisis of finance. With new media such as cable, video and satellite competing for audiences these economic and political pressures are likely to increase."

RSPCA call for £5 dog licence

By Tony Samstag

Half a million stray or unwanted dogs have become a problem that only the Government can solve, the RSPCA said yesterday.

The society estimated that of Britain's six million dogs, only a half are licensed. The cost of collecting the 37p fee is greater than the income from it, the RSPCA says.

"Many strays are young, healthy dogs, casually acquired on the spur of the moment and equally casually discarded without regard for their future," an RSPCA brochure says.

Large numbers are brought to us at holiday times because their owners will not pay the cost of a fortnight's boarding kennel fee."

Many of the unwanted dogs have to be destroyed because there are not enough homes for them.

The RSPCA calls for the Government to create a national dog warden service run by district councils under their local authorities and financed by an increased licence fee of about £5.

Why we need dog wardens. (RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG. 0403-64181, free).

12 cats stolen from university research unit

Twelve specially-bred cats were stolen on Monday night from Oxford University cattery at Nuneham Courtenay in Oxfordshire.

A video recording of the raid was shown on BBC television's *Breakfast Time* programme yesterday morning. The raiders smashed down several doors to get to the cats which had been bred in a disease-free environment for medical research. The animals are valued at £1,800.

A similar raid took place last month on the dog-breeding wing of Oxford University's department of physiology at Park Farm in North Moor, Oxfordshire.

Mr Ronnie Lee, spokesman for the Animal Liberation League, said he was not sure if his organization was involved in Monday's raid but said it was the sort of attack they have carried out in the past.

A spokesman for Oxford University said yesterday: "The cats were of great value to medical research having been bred pathogen-free. After the raid the dogs showed signs of very poor treatment at the hands of their captors."

Couple stabbed puppies to feed the litter

By Martin Fletcher

An unemployed couple decided three puppies should be stabbed to death to feed the rest of the litter, it was alleged yesterday.

But, although one of the puppies' legs was partially severed, the experiment failed and the 12-week-old animals were found by the RSPCA, magistrates at Minehead were told.

Denise Little, aged 20, of Fore Street, St Ives, Cornwall, was remanded on bail until next month for sentence after she admitted causing the dogs unnecessary suffering.

Her husband, Sean, failed to answer his bail and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Protection plea after pony shooting case

By Martin Fletcher

Stricter control over firearms and better protection for horses and ponies tethered in urban areas were called for yesterday by a magistrate after sentencing a youth who pumped 32 air rifle pellets into the eyes of a pony.

Andrew Christopher Taylor, aged 19, was sentenced to six months youth custody for shooting the pony, which was blinded and later destroyed. His air rifle was confiscated.

The chairman of Whitley Bay magistrates, Tyne and Wear, Mr John Lewis, said that he hoped horse sports authorities would protect animals through inspections or registration.

"There must also be a tighter control over firearms ownership. If something is done about



Mr Luke Rittner, Arts Council Secretary-General, at the launch yesterday of the Council's appeal for an increase in government funding.

thought unanswerable. But he saw no reason why there would be a dramatic change of thinking on the part of the Government, and said he wondered what the Council would do when that became apparent.

Sir William refused to speculate on the possible effects of a failure to attract the entire claim for £161 million. He later clashed with Sir Peter over the role of arts subsidies. Sir William said subsidy was a

necessary thing but could lead groups to become too dependent on Arts Council funds. But Sir Peter, to enthusiastic applause from members of the arts world who attended the presentation, deprecated Sir William's remarks and called for subsidy to be regarded as a form of investment. Sir Peter said he had worked all his life in the subsidized sector working long hours for less money than he could have received in the commercial world.

Mr Keith Thompson, for the prosecution, said that Taylor, whose address has been kept secret, repeatedly shot an 11-year-old pony after a heavy drinking session at a party in Backworth.

When the pregnant mare was examined, 15 pellets were taken from one eye and 17 from the other. 141 pellets were found in its face, head and body.

Mr Gerald Bass, for the defence, said that he would lodge an appeal against sentence.

An application for bail because his client feared rough justice from other prisoners was rejected.

Beatrix tells Moscow of last chance to avoid cruise missiles in Holland

From Robert Schmitt
Amsterdam

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands told the Soviet Union today that it is not too late to prevent the deployment of 48 cruise missiles in Dutch soil.

In her speech from the throne Queen Beatrix referred to the decision of the Dutch Government on June 1 last year. She said the two Houses of Parliament "With this decision, it has become clear to the entire Union where the one and only possibility lies for withdrawing the Netherlands from being a target of the missiles."

The Netherlands refused not to deploy cruise missiles if on November 1 this year the Russians have no more than 378 SS20 systems deployed in the same number as at the time of the decision.

But estimates put the figure at over 400. There were some eyebrows raised here when Mr. Rutger, the Prime Minister, the Queen to convey this message to the Soviet Union. It is all the more surprising that the Queen's sister, Princess Irene, has publicly stated opposition to deployment.

In a central theme, however, of the speech from the throne and the 1986 Budget introduced later in the day by Dr. O. Rutger, the Finance Minister, was the electoral age that over three years

US nukes German site

The 96 new cruise missiles to be stationed at a former US Air Force base at Wüschheim, in the south-west Rhineland-Palatinate, the US Air Force European headquarters at Ramstein said yesterday (AFP reports).

Deployment would begin sometime in 1987. The spokesman said no missile had yet arrived at Wüschheim.

It is the first time the US has announced in advance where cruise missiles will be stationed.

Nevertheless, according to Dr. Rutger, the public sector deficit remains too high to allow the cut in taxation which generally had been expected. The only electoral enticement is a "substantial drop" in social security contributions, which will benefit mainly the purchasing power of middle incomes in the private sector.

On the whole, however, commentators agree that the Cabinet has achieved remarkable results on the road to economic recovery.

In particular, it has put the country's finances back on a sounder basis. It has reduced the public sector deficit from an all-time high of nearly 11 per cent of national income in 1983 to a projected 7.8 per cent in 1986, while investments, which reached an all-time low with a 12.5 per cent decrease in 1981, have made a 7 per cent increase in 1985. Inflation will be down to a remarkable 1.25 per cent in 1986.

Nonetheless, the level of unemployment remains one of the highest in the European Community, affecting nearly 15 per cent of the workforce. Statistically the Cabinet managed to reduce the dole line between 1984 and 1985 from \$20,000 to 765,000, by no longer including certain categories of job seekers.

For 1986 the latter figure remains unchanged. In Mr. Rutger's term, the employment situation has been stabilized.

Poll obstacle for Jaruzelski

Boycott fuelled by Solidarity

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

As we vote for the Virgin Mary, said one of the banners held high at the weekend by a 50,000 worker-pilgrimage around the Jasna Gola monastery in Czestochowa, Poland.

The occasion was a kind of party jamboree - at one time almost everybody in the 1. sacred town seemed to be wearing the emblem of the red trade union - and the underground opposition to Jaruzelski, to boycott month's parliamentary elections.

The Government wants the 13 elections to legitimize its rule, and to achieve it is willing to incorporate independents, that is, not non-Communist but also largely outspoken nonconformists, into the new chamber. This is to make any sense it is a large turnout, far more than the 75 per cent used for last year's local elections. That would be the Jaruzelski government to be increasingly popular and the country increasingly "normalized".

Solidarity is determined to deny this advantage to the Government. Leaflets tumble from rooftops and the words *bojkot* - would the Yorkshire County Cricket Club recognize the spelling - and *nle* (no) are now the favoured slogans of the midnight graffiti brigade.

The Solidarity underground, some 100 prominent former union leaders, has followed the underground in calling on Poles to steer away from the "farce" of the elections. Dozens of opposition groups have followed suit, including sacked teachers, former political prisoners (now a substantial minority), and students have all signed petitions denouncing the elections.

It appears that it is not illegal to call for the boycott of an election, though if the police can prove that the signatories are members of an illegal, banned organization they can arrest, raid and interrogate. So far they seem content to lead "warning talks" with leading dissidents such as Mr. Jacek Kuron.

There are already 650 political prisoners in Poland, despite an emptying of the cells a year ago. The Government is not keen to push up the number, not while it is trying to secure the active neutrality of the Catholic Church.

A secret government poll recently disclosed that 97 per cent of the working class feels that it has close ties with the Church, which is most anxious to play the Government. It has stayed silent, rejecting attempts to invite leading lay Catholics to stand for Parliament.

Even Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the discreet Polish Primate, has let it be known that he will be out of the country on election day, talking to the Pope in Rome.

The Government is settling for an illusion of intimacy. General Jaruzelski, for example, would very much have liked to meet the Pope before the elections. The Pope was busy.

Government planners have taken to briefing the Church about economic developments and publicizing the sessions. The conclusion of one lay Catholic: "The Government is searching for people to share responsibility for Poland's problems without offering any share of power."

Thais hold ex-premier for coup bid

Bangkok (AFP) - A former Thai Prime Minister General Kriangsak Chavanond, and several top military men were arrested yesterday and charged with attempting to overthrow the Government in last week's military coup, police said.

In a related development, the Industry Minister, Mr. Ob Vassurana, a member of General Kriangsak's National Democratic Party, resigned with one of his deputies.

The national police chief, Mr. Nong Mahanont, said that 25 active and retired military officers had been charged, and charges were pending against 10 others. Among those detained was the Deputy Supreme Commander, Air Chief Marshal Arun Phromthep, a former Supreme Military Commander and a former deputy Supreme Commander, the police chief said.

General Kriangsak was Prime Minister between November 1977 and February 1980, when he resigned and the current Prime Minister, General Prem Tinsulanonda, took over. General Kriangsak's political party, which has 15 seats in parliament, is part of General Prem's four-party coalition.

He said that the two alleged coup masterminds, former Colonel Manoon Roopkachorn, and his younger brother, Wing Commander Manas Roopkachorn, both at large, have also been charged.



Mr Jacques Toubon, general secretary of France's Gaullist RPR party, being welcomed to Ouvéa island by women in traditional dress during a visit to New Caledonia as part of his party's campaign for the forthcoming regional election.

'17 killed' in bombing by Somalis

Nairobi (AFP) - Ethiopian planes have bombed the Somali town of Abudwa in the central Galgaduud region, killing 17 civilians and wounding 17, according to Radio Mogadishu monitored here.

The radio station, quoting a defence ministry communique yesterday said that the attacks happened on Monday. It said that six people died and 21 were wounded in border villages by Ethiopian aircraft on Sunday in the north-west and Awad regions. It had earlier reported that attacks were also made in Mudug and Galgaduud.

However, the opposition Somali Radio Hagan, believed to broadcast from Ethiopian territory, said that Sunday's attacks were by armed Somali rebels. It said that they were mounted simultaneously by Somali opposition movements and are legitimate attacks by the Somali people.

Turks seek Pentagon new deal

Ankara (Reuters) - Turkey told the United States yesterday that it wanted a revision of their defence and economic co-operation agreements, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The US Ambassador, Mr. Robert Strass-Hupe, was summoned by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Vahit Halefoglu, to receive a demand for negotiations on changing the accord.

The United States has important communications, intelligence-gathering and air base facilities in Turkey. Ankara has said repeatedly it is unhappy about the aid it gets in return.

This will total \$935 million (\$690 million), of which \$785 million is in military aid and grants and \$150 million in economic support in the financial year beginning on October 1.

Russians try to end attacks on Kabul

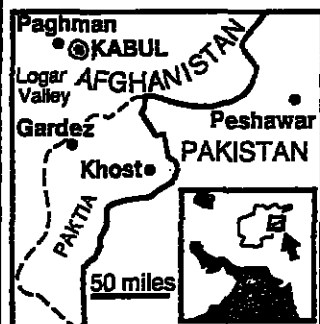
From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

While heavy fighting continues in the Gardez region of Afghanistan the Soviet occupation force has also been carrying out a series of operations north and south of Kabul in a determined attempt to stop attacks on the capital, Western diplomatic sources reported here yesterday.

The diplomats had no details of the fighting in Pakitia province, but representatives of the Mujahidin guerrillas in Peshawar spoke to *The Times* about a series of attacks on insurgent strongholds.

Troops from the garrison town of Khosht have been driving a pincer movement towards a mountain redoubt held by guerrillas of the Hesbe Isalmi group of Yunis Khalis, under the leadership of the local commander, Mr. Jalaluddin Harkani.

One observer who was close to the attacking forces said that the twin attacks via the villages of Bari and Leja peirced out on a mountain ridge still some distance from their objective. The diplomats said that regime forces had been sweeping through villages in the southern Shomali valley, just north of Kabul. South of the capital, Soviet and Afghan helicopters have been active in driving civilians out of the Logar valley area.



Bicentenary casts storm over Hawke

From Stephen Taylor
Sydney

Allegations of mismanagement by authority responsible for preparations in 1988 marking years since the British settlement of Australia have made here.

Allegations of overspending and misuse of public money by Australian Bicentennial Authority (ABA) management growing, and yesterday Mr. Hawke, the Prime Minister, had for the second time in a row to deny that he had been involved in a huge pay-out to a former executive who resigned as a cloud last month.

Mid rising criticism of ABA management last month it was announced that Dr. David Strong, the chief executive, was to get nearly \$249,000 in salary.

Last week Mr. John Read, the chairman, told a Senate committee that Mr. Hawke had approved a pay-out after "consultations", a claim now twice denied by Mr. Hawke. In Canberra yesterday it was under the terms of the ABA constitution, he had been aware of the settlement, but had not been involved in negotiations and not empowered to give approval.

With more than two years to go before the bicentennial, most Australians believe that more controversy is yet to come.



General Kriangsak: His party still in coalition

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French diving team theory throws Greenpeace row back in Mitterrand's lap

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The continuing saga of the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior, the Greenpeace vessel sabotaged in Auckland Harbour in July, has been given further impetus by startling revelations in yesterday's *Le Monde* that a two-person French military diving team was responsible for planting two underwater bombs.

This team, according to *Le Monde*, worked in conjunction with two teams of French secret service officers which the Tricot report into the Rainbow Warrior sinking had admitted were in New Zealand, but on a spying and not a sabotage mission.

Two of these officers are in jail in New Zealand awaiting trial on charges of murder and arson.

The revelations put responsibility firmly back in the lap of the French Government, although M. Bernard Tricot's report had somewhat hesitantly

absolved it of implication in the actual sinking, in which a crew member died.

Throughout the controversy, the French press has continued to publish revelations, some of which have helped to piece together the story and others designed to further certain political ends.

The *Le Monde* story of a third secret service team is gleaned, they say, from various unspecified political and military sources. It is not the first time that there have been hints of the presence of further secret service officers in New Zealand at the time of the sinking, but *Le Monde's* answer to the question of who gave the order seems designed to embarrass the Government right up to President Mitterrand.

The immediate head of the acting division of the secret services (Director Générale de la Surveillance Extérieure) is Colonel Jean-Claude Lesquen,

but he, being a disciplined officer, would not act on his own initiative, says *Le Monde*.

His superior officer is Admiral Pierre Lacoste, head of the service, but he too would not act alone.

Up the scale comes the chief of the armed forces at the time, General Jeannot Lacaze, the special military advisor to President Mitterrand, General Jean Saulnier (who has since replaced General Lacaze chief of the armed forces) and the minister of defence, M. Henu.

Le Monde says that it is impossible to know whether these three were directly implicated, or whether there were misunderstandings between themselves and subordinates as to how the Rainbow Warrior should be dealt with to avoid its leading a protest flotilla to the French nuclear testing area.

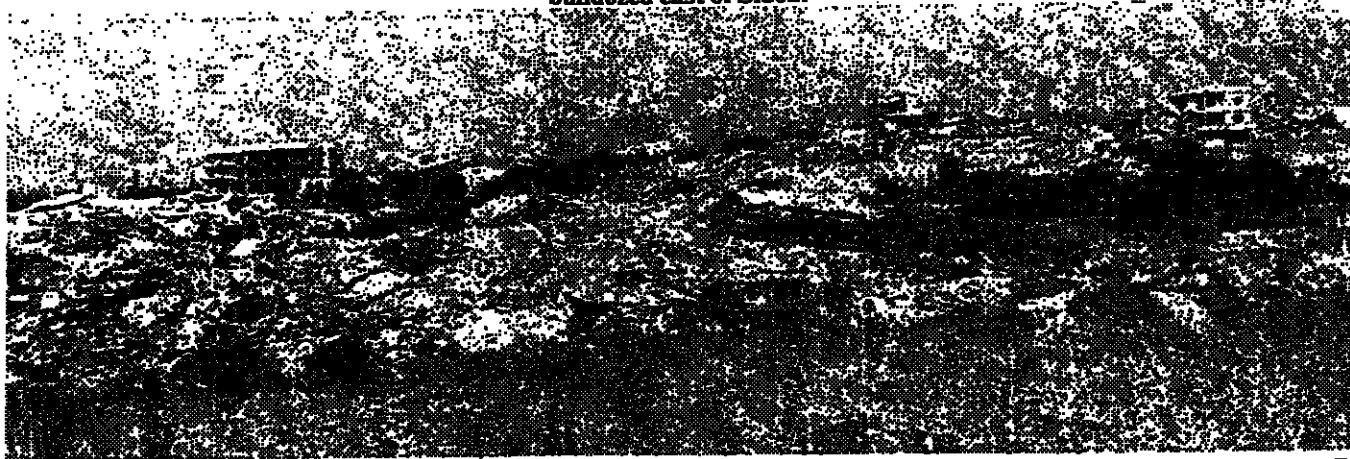
According to *Le Monde*, President Mitterrand knew of French involvement in the sinking only a week after it happened, when he was informed by his minister of the interior, M. Pierre Joxe. After hesitating, he decided to ask former De Gaulle advisor, M. Tricot, to hold an enquiry. His report did no more than report the "false version given by military authorities".

M. Henu said yesterday that "all means to discover the truth would be employed" but refused further comment. The *Le Monde* story comes at a useful time for the opposition parties when President Mitterrand is projecting his ability to be able to work with the opposition should they win the March elections.

Hillsides littered with the debris of destruction



The debris of systematic destruction in Elman, above, and Old Abra, below, Christian communities dynamited and bulldozed east of Sidon.

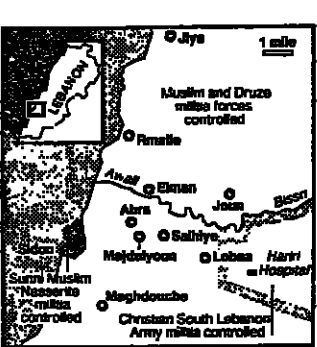


Continued from page 1

On the north side of the river, in the villages of Elman, Metoulleh and Mazrat el-Dahr, there is scarcely a piece of stone or concrete more than 4ft in height left standing.

In the past two days, PSP militiamen, after numbering houses in the streets carefully to ensure that Muslim homes are left untouched, have begun the destruction of the coastal town of Rmaile.

Nothing like this has been seen in Lebanon in a decade.



Yet in a few small towns there have been acts of generosity towards Christians who want to stay.

In the beautiful little hamlet of Jouh, on the cold mountain slopes at the southern end of the Chouf, five Christian families, both Maronites and Greek Catholics, asked to stay in their homes and were protected by their Shia and Sunni Muslim neighbours.

East of Sidon, on the Jezze road, the liberal Father Selim Ghazal has sought, and been given, the protection of the Lebanese Communist Party militia for his school and orphanage. Local leftist gunmen are now guarding the damaged church tower and school offices.

It is not the only example of generosity. Despite rumours that it has been torn down by the Druze, the great Greek Catholic monastery of Deir el-Mikhaleh - the "Saviour's Monastery" - which was founded in 1711 and became

the home of the authoress and adventuress, Lady Hester Stanhope, in the nineteenth century, still stands intact above Jouh.

Part of its roof has been broken open by shellfire, but the mainly Sunni PSP militiamen controlling the area have not damaged it, on the orders of Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader.

When I walked through the huge wooden gateway I found the electric lamp still burning beside Christian icons and photographs of old Greek Catholic priests, the long stone corridors deserted but the libraries untouched.

South of Sidon, the Shia Muslims have protected Christians who have returned gingerly to the villages of Krayi, Jnesayya and Maghdouche.

But it is the old who have crept back, not the young to repopulate the land. The exodus of Lebanon's Christians down here has already been made permanent.

Gemayel's palace shelled

Beirut (Reuters) - Shells and rockets hit President Gemayel's palace outside Beirut yesterday badly damaging the building amid an upsurge of sectarian fighting in and around Lebanon's three main cities.

Officials said Mr Gemayel was in the building when several shells and rockets hit the palace and its hilltop gardens, but he and his staff and guards were unharmed.

A room where he presides at Cabinet meetings, adjacent offices and the entrance were badly damaged.

Troops loyal to President Gemayel defending the strategic Souq al-Gharb salient above the palace simultaneously fought artillery duels with Druze-led forces.

Indian moves worry Zia assembly

Silence on the glacier war

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

The Pakistan Government is being urged by members of its National Assembly, the main body of newly emerging democracy, to make a statement about the confrontation with the Indians on the Siachen glacier.

Despite the apparent willingness of both sides to play down the importance of the clashes on the glacier, the highest battlefield in the world, about which the Foreign Ministry has so far declined to give much information, concern has been expressed by Assembly members about the extent of the territory apparently "lost" to the Indians.

The deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Zahir Noonani, told members last week that a statement would be made during a foreign affairs debate to be held shortly. No date has been set.

The armed forces marked "Defence of Pakistan Day" this month with a detailed history of the Siachen dispute, which was published prominently in the Pakistan press. The day marks the outbreak of hostilities in the 1965 Indo-Pakistan war.

Pakistan's military authorities have also made clear to me their view that the Indian Army has wrongly seized the glacier, which controls the north-eastern Karakoram mountain range, where India, Pakistan and China join.

The Indians base their claim on what they say is the wording of 1949 ceasefire agreements from 1949 onwards which have left the line of control basically undefined above a certain point, saying merely that the line continues from the last defined point "thence northward to the glaciers".

Since no troops were engaged in any war between the two countries further north than this point, there has been no need for a ceasefire line to be fully documented.

In the Sino-Pakistan border agreement of 1963 the border between China and Pakistan was defined as running as far east as the Karakoram Pass. India has never accepted this agreement, which it insists has given away a large chunk of Indian territory to the Chinese.

Pakistan claims that the Indians had an opportunity to challenge the Pakistan view of the ceasefire line in the Tashkent agreement after the 1965 war, and again in 1972 when India was in a position to dictate terms, having won the war for the independence of Bangladesh and holding prisoner 94,000 Pakistanis.

The Tashkent agreement altered the terminal point of the line from the village of Khor, on the Shyok river, to a map reference point, NJ9842. The line north of this point was still left undefined.

In 1972, in the Simla agreement, the terminal point remained at NJ9842, though India gained a new swathe of territory to the west of the previous line, and the ceasefire line became known as the "line of control".

Pakistani military experts say that the glacier was left in Pakistani hands until the late 1970s when for reasons of its own, India began to send military mountaineering teams to the area, which had previously been climbed by teams coming via Pakistan.

In 1982 the Pakistan army

US protest at soldiers' detention

From Michael Biayon, Washington

The United States has protested to Moscow over the detention of two American soldiers in East Germany, but senior officials suggest that the incident was not nearly as serious as publicly suggested by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Secretary of Defence.

He said on Sunday that Soviet troops had deliberately bumped a vehicle of the US Military Liaison Mission, pushed an American soldier back into the truck and then detained him at gunpoint for nine hours.

The State Department and the Pentagon, however, said the Army vehicle had become stuck near a Soviet communications installation, and that a Soviet truck speeding down the road, had "grazed" the American vehicle.

The State Department said on Monday the Americans were in an area where they were legally entitled to be.

Mr Weinberger has been criticized by several Administration officials for over-dramatizing the incident and comparing it to the killing of Major Arthur Nicholson, a US officer by a Soviet sentry in East Germany in March.

Chemical found in German jelly babies

Stuttgart (Reuters) - Traces of the toxic chemical diethylene glycol, the illegal sweetener at the centre of the Austrian wine scandal, have been found in one of West Germany's biggest-selling children's sweets, health officials said.

A spokesman for the Baden-Wuerttemberg health ministry said the chemical was found in two of 13 packs of jelly babies examined by government chemists.

He said the coloured, gelatine sweets, favoured by children of pre-school age, may have been contaminated by the cellophane in which they are packaged, which also contains the chemical. Concentrations varied from 10 to 30 milligrams per kg, which was "not so dramatic".

Airline finds turbine cracks

Stockholm (Reuters) - Scandinavian Airline System is checking 39 of its DC-9 aircraft after cracks were discovered in the turbine blades of four engines.

"We found cracks last year after we had modified the blades of the old Pratt and Whitney engines to cut energy consumption. New blades have shown the same problem, so we are checking all the 50 engines involved," a spokesman said.

General sacked for cover-up

Lima (Reuters) - President Garcia has sacked Peru's top general after criticizing his conduct of the war against Maoist rebels.

The President told the Cabinet that General Cesar Enrico Prall shared responsibility for covering up the full toll of the campaign by the guerrillas.

\$50,000 prize for art historian



Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, the art historian and Emeritus Professor at the University of London, who is one of two recipients of the £50,000 Balzan Foundation prizes awarded in Milan.

Professor Gombrich was honoured for his contribution to the interpretation of the history of Western art.

Kasparov takes a day off

Moscow (Reuters) - Garry Kasparov postponed the sixth game of his world chess title challenge against the champion, Anatoly Karpov, in an attempt to regain his confidence and equilibrium.

Kasparov fell behind 3-2 on Sunday when he lost his second consecutive game.

Telling all

Sydney - The British Government's attempt to prevent publication in Australia of a book by Mr Peter Wright, formerly an MI5 "spy catcher", would be vigorously contested, counsel for Heinemann Publishing in Australia, told the New South Wales Supreme Court.

Spying pays

Oslo (Reuters) - Mr Arne Treholt, a Norwegian jailed for 20 years as a Russian spy, has won a £2,000 literary award for an account of his espionage work, his dramatic arrest and interrogation at the hands of secret police, the book's publishers said.

Ershad hopes

Ohaka, (Reuters) - President Ershad says he will restore limited political activity in Bangladesh next month in a fresh attempt to return to democracy after more than three years of military rule.

Eastern flight

Kuala Lumpur (AFP) - Malaysia and Britain signed a new air services agreement, ending a year-long wrangle over a demand by the Malaysian Airlines System (MAS) for a fifth weekly flight to Britain.

Boeing contract

Cologne (AP) - The Lufthansa airline has signed a contract to buy 10 Boeing 737-300s to be delivered in the second half of 1986.

Thar she blows

Madrid (Reuters) - A 35ft plastic whale intended as a protest against Iceland's whale hunting greeted President Vigdis Finno Garth as he visited Madrid's Prado museum.

Russia launches ninth mission to space station

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union yesterday launched a spacecraft carrying three cosmonauts into orbit to join the Salyut 7 space station, the official news agency Tass said.

Commander Vladimir Vasyutin, aged 33, pilot Georgy Grechko, aged 54, and researcher Arksanor Volkov, aged 35, blasted off at 1639 Moscow time from the agency said.

The flight was the ninth manned mission to the cylindrical Salyut 7 station.

Tass said the three cosmonauts would carry out scientific and technical studies

Satellite is £63m write-off

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

An \$85 million (£63 million) communications satellite launched from the space shuttle Discovery last month seems to be a total write-off. It has failed to work, probably because of a faulty cable between its ultra-high frequency radio transmission system and its broadcast antenna.

Hughes Communications Inc, of Los Angeles, owns the crippled satellite, Lesat 4, which was intended for lease to the US Navy. The company said on Monday that it was doubtful that continuing efforts to revive the communications payload would be successful. It plans to submit

a total loss claim to insurance underwriters.

The satellite, insured by Lloyds, Intec and 12 other companies, was one of three deployed during the mission in which a crippled Lesat 3 satellite was retrieved.

When deployed by Discovery last month, the satellite performed flawlessly and reached its proper orbit. But after about two days of testing, Hughes controllers lost the radio link to the craft.

"Extensive analysis and testing are in progress to determine the specific cause of the failure of the cable," the company said.

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Teachers and pupils held as thousands try to reopen township schools

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Scattered violence was reported from Coloured townships around Cape Town yesterday as thousands of parents, teachers and pupils converged in an attempt to reopen local schools.

About 450 primary and senior secondary schools and teacher-training colleges in the Western Cape, about half of all such institutions in the region, were closed by the Government on September 6 after weeks of demonstrations and class boycotts.

The most serious incident was reported from a senior secondary school in Athlone, a coloured suburb of Cape Town, where police used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse about 4,000 parents, teachers and pupils.

Police were earlier reported as having arrested the headmaster, some of the staff and between 200 and 300 pupils. Other demonstrators then made barricades of burning tyres and tried to besiege the police in the school grounds.

Police and soldiers took up positions outside scores of other coloured schools in the Western Cape and patrolled township streets in armoured personnel carriers. In spite of sporadic violence, demonstrators generally obeyed orders to disperse.

The attempt to reopen the schools was organized by the "Concerned Teachers' Coordinating Committee", which is said to have about 1,000 members. It denounced the closures as an "extreme and unwarranted punitive measure against the entire (coloured) community".

The committee is demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees; withdrawal of the Army and police from all schools and townships; lifting of the state of emergency; and free and compulsory education for all.

Yesterday's school violence in the Cape was preceded on Monday by a warning from the newly-appointed Acting Divisional Commissioner for the Western Cape, Brigadier C. A. "Blackie" Swart, that police would use all the force at its disposal to deal with "agitation, arsonists and stone-throwers".

Brigadier Swart, who earned a fearsome reputation in his previous post as Divisional Commissioner for the Eastern Cape, said: "These people want to make us weak at the knees so that we won't take action. I want to give them this message - they are wasting their time."

Meanwhile, police yesterday used rubber bullets, birdshot and tear gas at a high school in Soweto, the sprawling African township outside Johannesburg, to disperse rioting pupils.

The trouble apparently started after pupils could not find a man suspected of having stabbed to death one of their schoolmates. The disturbances were not far from another school at which 746 black pupils were arrested last week under emergency regulations and kept in jail for two days.

In Johannesburg itself, police arrested 17 blacks who staged a placard demonstration in the central business district demanding the reinstatement of about 400 workers dismissed by Edgars, one of the country's leading chain stores.

The 400 were fired after stopping work in solidarity with 27 colleagues dismissed from a Johannesburg branch of the store who staged a sit-in demanding the suspension of a white store controller said to have used abusive and racist language to a black employee.



Crowds fleeing police tear gas and rubber bullets in Athlone during protests at the Government closure of local schools.

Leaders of coup in Kenya executed

By Richard Dowden

The 12 leaders of a 1982 Kenya coup attempt have been executed secretly in prison, according to diplomatic sources in Nairobi.

The Kenyan Government has refused to confirm or deny what is now an open secret, in Nairobi, and no Kenyan newspapers have published the reports. It is understood that the men were hanged at Kamiti prison, Nairobi.

The coup leaders, Senior Private Hezekiah Ochiu, aged 31, and Senior Sergeant Pankas Otiyo, aged 32, are believed to have been executed on July 9 and the other ten a day or two later.

The two leaders seized an aircraft and flew to Tanzania when the coup failed and were granted political asylum, but were forcibly returned in November 1983. More than 900 army and others implicated, including Major-General Peter Kasuku, the Air Force chief, were jailed for up to 25 years but President Arap Moi of Kenya pardoned 473 of them.

The 12 were sentenced to death for treason by courts martial in 1983 and 1984, and all appealed unsuccessfully in the High Court against the sentences. Two others sentenced to death had their sentences quashed by the High Court. All but one of the men are of the Luo tribal grouping.

The other ten men said to have been executed are Robert Odhiambo Njogu, James Odinga Otiyo, George Akoth Otiyo, Joseph Ogiro Otiyo, Walter Odia Otiyo, Edward Adel Otiyo, Fenwick Otiyo, Charles Otiyo, Otiyo Otiyo, and Otiyo Otiyo.

The coup was led by junior Air Force personnel complaining of corruption, restriction on freedom, economic difficulties and poor leadership. They were supported by some university students.

The coup attempt, in which the official death toll was 159, was followed by rioting and looting.

Angola air strike continues

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Swapo has been fighting for Namibia's independence for the past 19 years in a desultory guerrilla war which, according to Pretoria, has claimed the lives of some 10,000 guerrillas and 560 South African troops.

Only last June, Major-General George Meiring, the commander of the South West Africa Territory Force, a locally recruited unit under white officers which is doing most of the fighting, claimed that Swapo had been destroyed as a serious military force.

This statement was followed at the end of the same month, however, by a three-day operation inside Angola in which more than 60 Swapo guerrillas were said to have been killed in some 30 contacts and large quantities of arms and ammunition seized.

The current raid is the first across the border since June. There is speculation that its purpose might be as much to give aid and material support to the Angolan rebel forces of Dr Jonas Savimbi as to attack Swapo targets.

Dr Savimbi's UNITA forces have been somewhat exposed since last April when South African troops withdrew from semi-permanent occupation of southern Angola under an agreement signed with Angola in February 1984.

Pretoria continued to give clandestine support to Dr Savimbi, even while it was negotiating with the Angolan Government on the terms of withdrawal and on the terms of independence for Namibia.

French free 'Jackal' henchman

Paris (Reuters) - Bruno Breguet, Swiss national whom police describe as a henchman of the international guerrilla, Carlos "The Jackal" Sanchez, one of the world's most-wanted men, was freed from a French jail yesterday after having served a sentence for possessing arms.

Mr Breguet, aged 35, who was jailed for five years in April 1982, was released from Fresnes prison, south of Paris, after having earned full remission, French Interior Ministry officials said.

He would be expelled from France to a country of his choice.

Mr Breguet was detained in an underground garage in February 1982 with Frau Magdalena Kopp, of West Germany, who was freed in May after having served a similar sentence. Arms and explosives were found in their car.

Saudi prince may sign £3bn arms contract next week

Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, will visit Britain next week and may sign a £3 billion arms deal, the Saudi Embassy in London said yesterday (Reuters reports).

A spokesman said that the Prince was expected in London on about September 25. His schedule is still being decided.

British Defence sources say that the sale of 48 Tornado combat jets and 30 Hawk trainers would give Britain a big stake in Saudi defence well into the 21st century.

They say Britain has benefited from political contracts on US arms exports to Arab countries. "The American Jewish lobby has done us a favour," one aviation official said.

The Defence sources also said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher could sign a £270-million arms deal when she visits Jordan this week.

It includes electronic warfare equipment, anti-aircraft installations and fast patrol boats.

Officials in Washington say that the Saudis cleared the British deal with President Reagan before going ahead.

They had previously tried to buy US F15 fighters.

Israel has condemned the deal, saying that if the planes are stationed at the Tabuk airbase, they will be well within range of Israeli cities and could threaten its shipping.

Israeli sources in London say that there is also anger at the fact that Britain is still operating an arms embargo against Israel.

Paris Under the front-page headline, "Fighter aircraft: A market lost in Saudi Arabia," *Le Figaro* yesterday lamented that the Saudis preferred British Tornado aircraft to French Mirage 2000s (Susan Macdonald writes).

The announcement came while a French team was in Saudi Arabia to persuade officials to choose the Mirage.

The French Defence Minister, M Charles Hernu, has said that he is waiting for further information, but refuses to consider that all chances of French-Saudi transactions, on more Mirage aircraft have been lost.

Political commentators in Paris give two reasons for a cooling of Franco-Saudi relations: firstly, alleged Franco-Israeli discussions on a proposed nuclear plant in Israel; and second, a shift in French diplomacy in the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The news of the British-Saudi deal comes while France is still angry over Mrs Thatcher's appeal to President Reagan that the US defence department order Britain's Parnham military communications system instead of France's Rita system.

Louisiana governor faces jury

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Governor Edwin Edwards of Louisiana and seven other defendants went on trial in New Orleans yesterday on fraud charges over the building of hospitals. The Governor, who was re-elected last year, denies the charge.

A federal Grand Jury accused Mr Edwards in the spring of profiting from the issue of state certificates, attesting the hospitals were needed, which then allowed the builders to collect back federal money on some expenses.

Governor Edwards, at first denying any financial involvement, later said he had earned \$2 million (£1.48 million) in legal fees on four certificates granted between 1980 and 1984, when he was out of office.

Among the defendants are Mr Edwards' brother and nephew. The details of the alleged \$10 million fraud are complicated. The prosecution will have to prove that the 16 hospitals were not needed where they were sited and that Mr Edwards, through a series of deals involving a California-based hospital construction company, profited directly.

Louisiana has a long history of political corruption - cronism, the dispensing of favours and financial involvement in contracts to political supporters - though this is the first time a Governor has been prosecuted.

Mr Edwards, aged 58, a Democrat serving his third term, has already been investigated by federal officials 10 times since 1973, and is known for his flashy lifestyle and fast mouth. "The only way I'll lose is if I get caught in bed with a dead girl or a live boy," he once boasted of his election chances.

He said before the trial opened that he was confident he would be acquitted, and would "relish the opportunity" to testify. If convicted, he faces suspension from office, up to 265 years' imprisonment and \$74,000 in fines.

Palestinian charged with cafe bombing

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A Lebanese-born Palestinian was yesterday charged with the grenade attack on Via Veneto's famous Cafe de Paris on Monday night in which 38 people were injured, including three Britons and nine Americans.

Police said Ahmad Ali Hossen abu, Seraya, aged 27, was being held on charges of illegal possession of explosives, carrying out a massacre, and carrying a false passport.

Two grenades were thrown into the crowded cafe shortly before midnight on Monday. One failed to explode. It was of Soviet manufacture.

The three Britons were all visiting businessmen. None of them is badly injured and all are expected to be released from hospital in the next day or two, according to the British Embassy here.

The hurt Britons were named as Mr Ronald Barratt, Mr Derek Hamlin and Mr Brian Raybould. A fourth, Mr Douglas Ramsay, suffered superficial injuries and was not detained in hospital but decided to stay with the other three.

Police said Mr Seraya was moved yesterday from police headquarters for questioning by special Branch. He is understood to belong to a terrorist group calling itself "Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Forces" which is held responsible for a earlier acts of violence in Italy and other European cities.

The group was said to have been behind a plot to blow up the US Embassy here with a car filled with explosives. Police discovered the plot last November before it could be put into effect.

In December, another two members of this terrorist organization were arrested while in possession of explosives.

Mr Seraya showed a Moroccan passport when arrested by the police. This proved forged, and he is understood to have been born in the Palestinian refugee camp of Bour al-Barajeh in Lebanon. Police said they had seen him running away from the scene of the bombing and caught him after a long chase.

The accused maintains that he had nothing to do with the bombing and was at the cafe as a tourist. He is known to have arrived in Rome on August 25, and to have changed hotels two or three times in order, police believe to avoid being noticed.

Police found in his hotel room \$1,000, some Italian money and a return air ticket from Damascus to via Athens.

As it would be practically impossible to enter Italy with the two grenades, police believe that he was given them after his arrival, and are now investigating his contacts.



Mr Seraya: Visited cafe as a tourist.

Priest details Contras' torture for court

The Hague (Reuters) - A French Roman Catholic priest spoke yesterday of acts of wanton terror by US-backed rebels trying to bust the Nicaraguan Government.

Father Jean Loison, a qualified nurse was giving evidence for Nicaragua during hearings at the International Court of Justice on a Nicaraguan complaint of US military aggression.

Father Loison, aged 54, said he had taught nursing since 1983 at a medical school attached to the hospital in La Trinidad, in Nicaragua's main war zone.

He had nursed people wounded in attacks by the anti-Sandinista guerrillas, known as Contras, made on La Trinidad

and several towns in the mountainous area, some 80 kms from the Honduras border.

After a recent attack by the Contras, an injured woman was admitted to the hospital. "You could see all inside her abdomen, she had been expecting a baby," he said.

Father Loison said he had not himself witnessed atrocities committed by the Contras, but was told about them by refugees.

"Contras burned down a village and machine-gunned a small house, not bothering to see if anyone was inside. They killed two scared children hiding under a bed," he said.

Contras usually "tortured before killing. Father Loison

said: "We have found many corpses. One man was strangled and had his chest crushed, and another man's eyes had been gouged by bayonets."

Questioned by M Alain Pilet, professor of law at the alleged kidnapping by Contras, he replied: "One girl was kidnapped for six months and had to serve as a prostitute. She returned with venereal disease."

The US has not attended the hearings which began Thursday, proceedings in January, saying that the 15-judge International Court of Justice was being misled by Nicaragua for political and propaganda purposes.

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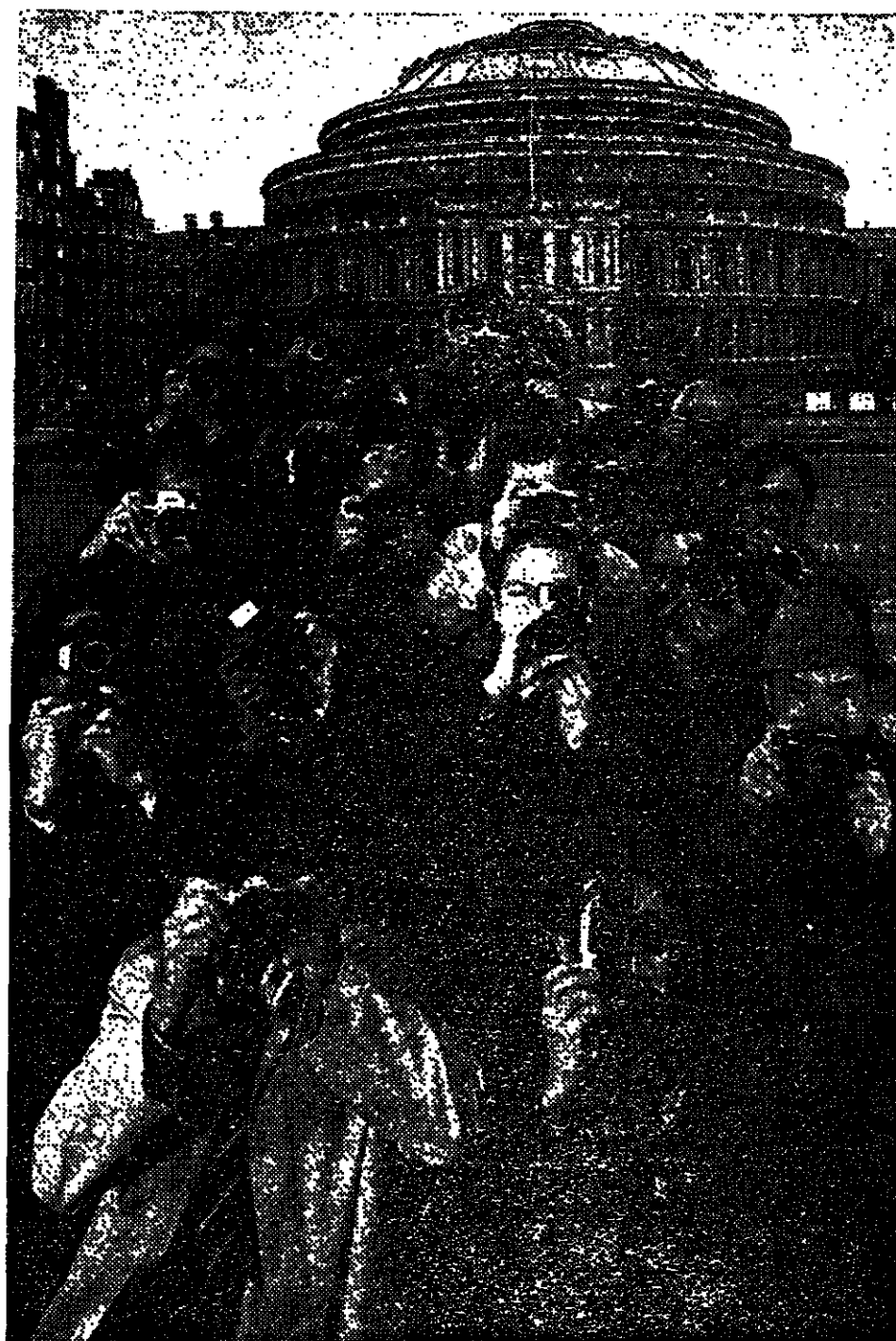
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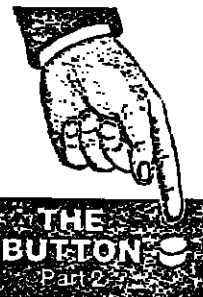


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SPECTRUM

Harvard scientist Daniel Ford exposes more of the serious flaws behind the American nuclear button

Will early warning be early enough?



In the event of a Soviet nuclear attack it is doubtful if America's outdated radar system would provide the confirmation of satellite warnings needed before a counter-strike is ordered. The system breaks down regularly and has even identified the rising moon as a Soviet strike. The US defence computer system is equally clumsy and out of date, and presidents, including Mr Reagan, have shown little grasp of the vital decisions that they would have to make, within a matter of minutes, if faced with a nuclear crisis



US DEFENCE: WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN

● Several dozen US defence satellites monitor the Soviet Union. Most important of the "first bellringers" are DSP East and DSP West. DSP East, hovering 22,000 miles above the Indian Ocean, watches all 35 Soviet missile-launching bases. DSP West, consisting of two satellites 22,000 miles above the equator, keeps similar watch for launches from Soviet submarines in the Atlantic and Pacific.

● Confirmation of genuine attacks is provided by radar in Greenland, England, Alaska and on the east and west coasts of the US. The President then decides with the aid of the complex "black box" on the form of retaliation.

He might do this from Kneecap (National Emergency Airborne Command Post), one of four converted Boeing 747s kept in constant runway alert.

● In the event of the death of the President, control of The Button can pass to 16 designated civilian successors, plus a number of his top military advisers. The primary "back-up" command post is Looking Glass, a modified Boeing 707, commanded by a USAF general, and flagship of a fleet of missile-carrying bombers. There is always a Looking Glass plane in the air, and it can communicate with TACAMO, the US Navy's flying link with its nuclear submarines.

● Two-thirds of the US nuclear submarine fleet, which carries warheads equivalent to 25,000 Hiroshimas, is always at sea. Commanders will attack the Soviet Union on their own initiative if they do not receive their "we're happy" message when they check in.

Man with designs on your bookshelf

Sir Terence Conran, the man who redesigned our homes in the 1960s with the same missionary zeal as Mary Quant applied to raising British hemlines, has found a new cause - introducing the non-reading public to serious books. Sir Terence and his old friend Paul Hamlyn of Octopus Books have set up Conran Octopus, a modest publishing house which this autumn will launch a small range of practical, well-illustrated titles at supermarkets, retail stores, railway stations and other non-bookshop outlets.

The founder of Mothercare, Habitat, Conran Associates and Richard Shops, has turned his thoughts during the past year to those of his shoppers who rarely read. Although also redesigning Borden's, a newly-acquired Debenhams department store, he has found time to embark on a project aimed at helping people to share his passion for reading.

He said he had no illusions that publishing was going to make him a fortune, but rather that it would introduce a new reading public to beauty, fashion design and cookery.

Although his gracious Berkshire home is a far cry from his Habitat Basics bedsitter interior, he insists he is a practical designer. He enjoys talking about curtains and building shelves, and the greatest compliment anyone can pay him is to say one of his books on a home topic gave down-to-earth practical detail.

Conran has invested about £1 million in the publishing venture. He is starting with 16 titles and 20 will be added each year. Not surprisingly, one of the stars is an extensively updated, re-written *Terence Conran New House Book*.

Although it costs £15, other practical titles cost only £2.99. Conran Octopus hopes people lured to serious reading by the modest price tag will develop wider interests.



Conran: branching out

"The average person may read pulp or buy the Shirley Conran *Lace* at the airport but would probably find it intimidating to go into a serious bookshop," said Conran. "I must put books alongside the subject they relate to if you want to attract a wider audience. If someone is in a supermarket buying food then it makes sense to sell cookery books there too."

Good Home Cooking by Conran's wife, cookery writer Caroline, is one of four food titles.

It is only on long-distance travel that Conran dips into paperback adventures. He is not a bedside reader, although Caroline is, and prefers to sit in a comfortable chair reading books on fashion and design.

If his enthusiasm for reading is to brush off on to others, sales will depend on the magic Conran display touch.

It is not only in his own outlets that Conran's books will get exposure. He can expect to do well in FNAC, a French retail chain specializing in records, tapes and books, in which he has a stake. Most of the titles are being translated and his *New House Book* alone has sold 350,000 advance copies.

Conran is a creator of ideas, his personal attention to detail is legendary and although many have contributed to his publishing list, it is he who has checked proofs, corrected galleys, given the final approval to the printers and written whole chapters.

Suzanne Greaves

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Satellites are the most important asset in the US early-warning system. NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defence Command, insists, however, that the presence of incoming missiles must be confirmed by at least two warning systems. The principal complement to the satellites are the radars deployed in strategic locations.

What data would NORAD have received if the Russians had set H-Hour - the hour of attack - for 11 o'clock on the October morning that I walked into NORAD headquarters in the side of Cheyenne Mountain in the Rockies?

The radar at Thule, Greenland, was designed in the late 1950s. Until a modernization programme is completed, it will remain quite antiquated by today's technological standards. Two companion radar installations, using essentially the same equipment, are sited at Fylingdales Moor, Yorkshire, and Clear, Alaska.

These radars could be destroyed by direct nuclear or non-nuclear attack: their communication lines to NORAD could be severed; and, in addition, one connectivity study showed that these radars are "so easily tricked and fooled" that they could be jammed. At my hypothetical H-Hour, such Soviet efforts would

not have been necessary in the case of two installations. A yellow light indicated that Thule radar was reduced to partial capacity, although it could be restored to full operation quickly, and a red light indicated that Fylingdales Moor was not operating at all and could not be counted on.

One government expert commented that the situation I had observed was "not a typical" and a NORAD official said that a display panel "mostly yellow and no-go" happens because the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System "is 25 years old, operates on vacuum tube technology and should have been replaced 10 years ago".

More modern radars have been added to the early-warning system in the last few years at Shemya Island, Alaska, Beale Air Force Base, California, and Otis Air Force Station on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. At H-Hour, a red light indicated that the radars at Shemya Island and Beale were not operating.

NORAD has its own problems. In the early morning of June 3, 1980, a component in the complex computer system suddenly malfunctioned and sent a message to Strategic Air Command (SAC) HQ indicating that two Soviet submarine-launched missiles had been fired at the United States. Eighteen seconds later, the NORAD system declared that

further submarine-launched missiles were on their way. SAC B-52 bomber crews raced to their alert aircraft, started the engines and prepared to take off. The warning message vanished from the SAC display screen, however, as quickly as it had appeared. SAC HQ phoned NORAD, which reported that none of the early-warning satellites or radars had detected any missiles.

Then, right after the NORAD all-clear, SAC was alerted once again that a massive Soviet ICBM attack had been initiated. To complicate matters further, NORAD sent the Pentagon a different message: that submarine-launched missiles had just been fired. NORAD attributed the false alarm to a 46-cent (34p) computer chip manufactured in Taiwan. One official involved in the investigation of the mishap said that the chip merely "surfaced" a deeper problem, the fundamental blunder in the design of the communications computer, which lacked an adequate error-checking capability.

For several years before this incident - one of a number of false alerts - the flaws in the NORAD computers had been extensively documented. Including their potential inability to operate at all because of lack of a dependable power supply. NORAD depended on commercial electric power,

various reports noted, and while it did have back-up diesel generators, it lacked adequate means to protect its computers from the kind of brief power cuts that can cause havoc with computer performance.

This happens frequently in Colorado because of electrical storms, and one report by the Congressional General Accounting Office noted that power failures lasting less than half a second could lead to "catastrophic damage to data files vital to NORAD's mission performance".

It was ironic, a GAO auditor told me, that the company supplying NORAD with electricity kept its own accounts receivable file in a computer that had an independent power source. If lightning - or a saboteur - struck a power line in the region, NORAD's computers might fail, but the company's customers would still get their bills.

Even with uninterrupted power supplies, NORAD would still have fundamental computer problems, deriving from the decision in 1970 to instal - over NORAD's protest - the Honeywell 6000 series. It is not an inherently bad computer; the problem is the mismatching of its features with NORAD's requirements. The Honeywell is a "batch

processor" that handles information in a step-by-step sequence. NORAD, in contrast, needs to operate in "real-time environment" to obtain immediate access to key data and to keep up with rapidly changing events. If one imagines a plodding student whose only idea of how to look up a word in the dictionary is to begin on page one and keep on searching, the problems with sequential processing will be apparent.

In 1974, the Pentagon responded to the problems NORAD was having with its new Honeywell 6000 computer by giving it another Honeywell 6000 computer. Consequently, to overcome the kind of "traffic jams" that can occur when computers are given large assignments, such as tracking thousands of warheads, NORAD developed elaborate operating procedures to make the machines perform more nimbly. It was like trying to turn a bus into a sports car, and the success was only partial.

NORAD also tried to patch together supplementary computers and data-handling machines. In a 1980 report, the Air Force Inspector General concluded that the new system, which was years late and 200 to 300 per cent over budget, had only "marginal performance". The net result has been to create for the 1980s a clumsy system that, when it works, just about matches the capabilities of the 1960s equipment that was supposed to be replaced.

At NORAD, an actual missile alert involves a lot of people talking to each other on the telephone and running around with messages. One wall of the Missile Warning Centre has a large map, covered in plastic, of the United States. "The map is up there in case it all breaks and we have to use a grease pencil", Major Robert Walden, a member of the staff, commented.

The human factor will play other roles. Radar operators' judgment would be constrained by the fact that none had ever seen a large-scale missile launch. "What you have out there is some young fellow with a couple of years of training," General Bennie L. Davis, Chief of Strategic Air Command, said. "At that end it's a very iffy business." Thule radar, shortly after going into operation, mistook the rising moon for a large missile attack.

Civilian officials also lack familiarity with their roles. "One of the problems we have discussed over the years is the difficulty of getting the President even to sit down to practise," said Richard DeLaurer, the Under-Secretary of Defence for Research and Engineering.

"I guess President Carter was the first President ever to visit the National Command Post, sit down where he was supposed

to sit and at least be briefed on what it all means. Nixon never did. Johnson never did, and some of the security advisers, like Kissinger, never went down there."

War games are one way to familiarize civilian officials. President Reagan has taken part. He did not, however, according to Pentagon evaluation reports, appear to grasp the complexities involved.

"He acted like an automaton, like part of the set instead of the main actor", a Pentagon aide told me. "Reagan was saying things like: 'What do I do now? Do I push this button?'"

The death of the President would not deprive the US strategic command system of the means to order a retaliatory strike. "Prudence dictates that you're never in that situation," General Davis said. According to the Constitution, there will always be "a President", at least until the list of 16 designated successors runs out.

The military also has its own chain of command, and senior officers have all the means, without the involvement of any civilian officials, to issue orders for a retaliatory strike.

Every eight hours, an EC-135 - a windowless, specially modified Boeing 707 - takes off from Offutt Air Base in Nebraska or Ellsworth Air Base in South Dakota. It carries a USAF General, a battle staff, flight officers and communications technicians.

They relieve a similar 20-member crew in another plane that has been flying in an undisclosed pattern above the Midwest. These flights have been going on continuously since February 3, 1981. SAC will not acknowledge officially the existence of commanders of these planes - known as Looking Glass - as a potential surrogate for the President, but it does acknowledge that the plane is "the first plane command goes" if SAC HQ at Offutt is destroyed.

The ability of Looking Glass to carry out this mission is in doubt, however. Its most immediate quandary once a nuclear war begins will be the lack of informed people with whom to talk. Once its contacts on the ground are lost, which would happen very quickly in a major attack, Looking Glass will be operating in the blind.

Further complications with radio transmission and reception will arise once nuclear weapons have started to detonate. Conventional radio frequencies, for instance, are easily blacked out by nuclear detonations. A few one-megaton weapons, the size carried by typical Soviet ICBMs, detonated 300 miles above the US, would block high-frequency transmission for hours.

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7 False (4)
8 Fake illness (8)
9 Satanic (8)
13 Dismal (3)
16 Dance creator (13)
17 In addition (3)
19 Third in degree (8)
20 Spraying device (8)
25 Sense (4)
26 Courageous (6)
27 Watchman (6)

DOWN

10 Wrist-ribbon (4)
11 Nerve damage (9)
12 W Indian low dance (5)
13 Incooperative (5)
14 Sheep's cry (5)
15 Light beer (5)
16 Raccoon-like mammal (5)
17 Repugnant (9)
18 Resp (4)
19 Short tail (4)
20 External (5)
21 Composition (5)
22 Charges (5)
23 Send forth (4)
24 Gambit (4)

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Patriarch of the pundits

Listening to *Stop the Week* on Radio Four can be the most infuriating experience. On a bad Saturday it has the effect of making you feel beckoned by, yet excluded from, the aftermath of a brilliant dinner party, dominated by a coterie of garrulous eggheads.

Were the programme on television, at least you would have the satisfaction of seeing the opposition at play. On radio, however, the four speakers have the additional defence of invisibility, trading words in the obscurity of a studio somewhere deep in Broadcasting House.

They have been at it now for ten years, and on Saturday they resume their flashy in-talk at 6.50pm, hedged between snatches of a doo-wah jingle which mirrors the spirit of this upper-middle-brow English chat show - clever, harmonious and strangely vacuous.

Love it or hate it, you will see or rather hear - Robert Robinson as the main culprit behind the cultish articulation. For he is the patriarch of a nuclear family (his own assessment) which comprises a sociology lecturer (Laurie Taylor), a drama critic (Milton Shulman) and a journalist (Ann Leslie).

From time to time others blow in on half-public, half-private visits, usually to find themselves silenced as cannon fodder before the fusillades of the residents.

The most potent weapon in Robinson's armoury is the term 'ah-yes-but', which he deploys without mercy to stem the peaches of rivals. Whenever he elvers it, Shulman, Taylor and the rest seem like men argued aside in a linguistic accuse-me dance.

His job is that of fluentist

It makes for a competitive, decidedly male brand of listening in which fluency manages, time after time, to override thought itself. Robinson beats down with his words all those who would flit too long with his first love, the microphone.

As he enters his second decade as host, chairman, and interlocutor of the programme, Robinson's job description could fairly be described as that of *fluentist*, a man from whom articulation flows like matter from a centrifuge. He is aware

After 10 years chairing radio's *Stop the Week*, Robert Robinson

is seen by many as the main culprit of cultish articulation.

But, as Alan Franks reveals, he seems to revel in criticism



Robert Robinson: 'Cunning devil, you've fooled them again'

of all the criticisms and he seems to revel in them - as if bent on pre-emptive self-criticism.

There was a fellow who wrote to me once and said: 'Dear Mr Robinson, I have listened to your programme now for five years, and it's crap. No offence. Yours sincerely...'

Women, with the notable exception of Ann Leslie, seem to have a hard time on the show. While she has worked out the means of becoming an honorary post-prandial bloke, swapping aphorisms with the rest, others less versed in the ways of Robinson's radiophonic household will beneath the weight of words. Suddenly it is as though they should have settled for powdering their noses.

Our subjects are quite minuscule, says Robinson with an engaging candour. They have to do with talking about, oh, fruit. Or trying to

think of six people called Stan who are famous. Matthews, yes, certainly - Laure! All right, I'll give you that one, but that still leaves us four.

'They're so small these subjects that they're like the virus of conversation - they turn into tiny doorways through which, if they're chosen well, we can get a good glimpse of the people who are talking.'

'Anyone can think up six hundred words for *The Times*. But at the six hundred and first he chucks the typewriter out of the window; he knows there's no longer a need for it. The subject has ended. But with a conversation you can't do that. The producer of *Stop the Week*, Michael Ember, and I spend a large segment of our lives on the phone and we have to find something that will run for 20 minutes. Ember has a fairly disagreeable adverb, an adjective - talkable. But I think he's noticed that I didn't respond to that word, and it's dropped out

of his vocabulary. I think what he meant was, could it go the distance?'

Robinson is talking in Taunton's Castle Hotel, eight miles from a Somerset home which vies with a Cheshire Row house for his time and affection. Two strange and related facts emerge from the conversation. First, although he is a literary critic and novelist with a collection of essays and two works of fiction to his name, he prefers to squander (my word) his time in the chairmanship of television quizzes, asking Mrs Williams of Wincanton the height of Kilimanjaro. Second, although *Stop the Week*, with its intellectual badinage, would seem to be his proper broadcasting habitat, he is really rather browned off with it, no matter how much it has turned into a sort of conversational *Dynasty* for the British middle classes.

'The difficulty from my point of view is that all my whims and prejudices, which

should be the seasoning, have become the main course. And it's very strongly flavoured. I have, as it were, garlic on my breath.'

A greater revelation is that the man himself, so often accused of an addiction to his own voice, is really rather charitable about others - even the dyspeptic Milton Shulman. 'I'm not rude to Milton: I'm not rude to anyone. With people you know you can say all sorts of things that you couldn't to people whom you don't. I can't imagine him doing anything unkind. He goes off pop from time to time, but I've only seen him put out of humour a couple of times while doing this caper, as I call it. But that's true of all of us - me, and Ann and Laurie.'

Doing as he wanted to do

Robinson is unrepentantly happy about his lucrative work in the chair of *Brain of Britain*, *Ask Your Dad* and *Call My Agent* as he prefers to call them whenever he wants to prescribe the lines of disparagement.

'All I've done in television and radio is what I have wanted to do. I also have this feeling that once you've done something it'll go away. I use the medium, it doesn't use me. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it. Times without number I have turned down offers of pouring bowls of spaghetti on innocent members of the human race.'

'I have no guilt whatsoever so long as I feel easy with myself.'

'I may go to my grave with people saying: "I don't think the fellow lived up to his potential". Hands up those who want to be assessed - I don't. I can get all the criticism I can get - namely a bucket of praise. Not every so often, but all the time.'

'An old friend of mine - she was a pain, but the right sort of pain - looked at me and said: "You wouldn't be a disappointment to your old head". Well, that just got in under the fifth rib. Whereas when anyone says: "Do you really think you're living up to your potential?" I just say to myself: "Cunning devil, you've fooled them again."

Isabella Beeton had four ways with pigeons. She broiled, roasted or stewed the birds and baked them into an Epsom Grandstand Recipe For Pigeon Pie which institutionalized the practice of leaving the pink feet sticking through the crust to show, as she said, what kind of pie it was.

A century earlier, pigeons had been more popular. Hannah Glasse subjected them to no fewer than 21 different treatments, including transmigration, for which her instructions are these: 'Take your pigeons, season them with pepper and salt, take a large piece of butter, make a puff paste and roll each pigeon in a piece of paste, tie them in a cloth so that the paste don't break; boil them in a good deal of water. They will take an hour and half boiling; untie them carefully that they don't break; lay them in a dish and you may pour a little good gravy into the dish; they will eat exceeding good and nice and will yield sauce enough of a very agreeable relish.'

Today we have a choice of wild woodpigeons, which are best from August through till the end of October, and farmed squabs.

Squabs, young pigeons bred for the table, weigh from about 170g (12oz). At as much as £4 each (roughly four times the cost of woodpigeons), their price is in the game class, and like quail and guinea fowl, which are also farmed, they are set to find a place in the market.

Home-grown squabs reared by Stephen Noblett in Norfolk from American stock are produced without growth promoters, hormones or antibiotics, he says. The Roux brothers used to buy their pigeons from France. They and other top chefs like Raymond Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons now order Stephen Noblett's squabs.

Since tasting the French equivalent, pigeon de Bresse, on its home ground, I have been keen to cook a couple of dishes sampled in Burgundy. One was a sauté of pigeon served with a sweet, mild garlic purée. The other was roast pigeon with a stuffing of fresh vegetables.

While squabs are invariably tender and succulent, the meat of wild woodpigeons is lean and dense. It must be cooked with care if it is not to be dry. Adding fat by barding or larding for roasting is one traditional remedy. Simmering in gelatin-rich stock is even more successful and it is the method I have used for potted pigeon, which captures and intensifies the flavour superbly.

Of the traditional dishes, pigeon pudding with its rich gravy captured in a steamed suet or butter crust is even better than pigeon pie.

Pigeon pudding
Serves four
4 plump woodpigeons
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 carrot, chopped
1 stick celery, chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Bouquet garni of bay, thyme and orange peel
225 g (8 oz) self-raising flour
110 g (4 oz) shredded suet
100 water to mix

Heat the oil in a heavy pan and brown the pigeons evenly. Take

Flights of fancy or plain pigeon



Shona Crawford Poole

them out and add the onion, carrot and celery. Brown the vegetables and return the birds to the pan. Add about 1 litre (1½ pints) of cold water and bring slowly to the boil. Skim thoroughly, reduce the heat, add a little seasoning and the bouquet garni, and simmer the pigeons, covered, for about two hours, or until they are tender.

Remove and cool the pigeons. Strain the stock and reduce it by further simmering to about 300 ml (½ pint).

To make the crust, sift the flour and half a teaspoon each of salt and pepper into a bowl. Add the suet and blend with a fork. Sprinkle the mixture with iced water (about six table-spoons) and stir lightly until the dough begins to hold together. Using your hands, gather it into a ball, and knead lightly.

On a floured surface, roll out the dough to a circle which will cover an upturned pudding basin of 1.5 litres (2½ pints) capacity. Cut a wedge from the circle, about a quarter of the total area, and re-roll this piece for the lid. Use the remaining dough to line the basin, dampening the edge to be joined.

Take the pigeon meat off the bones and cut into bite-sized pieces. Pack it into the lined basin. Season the stock and pour it into the basin to come about two-thirds of the way up the filling. Fold the dough over the filling and dampen the upper edge. Top with the lid and press lightly to seal.

Cover the basin with buttered greaseproof paper and foil which have been folded together to make a 2.5 cm (1 in) pleat across the diameter of the basin and tie down firmly with string.

Stand the pudding in a large saucepan and pour in boiling water to come half way up the sides of the basin. Bring back to the boil, cover the pan and simmer for about 2½ hours, taking care that the water does not go off the boil or the pan boil dry. Top up with boiling water as necessary.

Roast squab with garlic sauce
Serves two
2 squabs
30 g (1 oz) butter
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
12 cloves garlic
300 ml (½ pint) good pigeon or chicken stock

Put a little butter in a roasting tin and spread the rest on the birds. Season them inside and out and roast them in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for 30 to 40 minutes, basting them once or twice. Rest in a warm place for 10 minutes.

Peel the garlic and drop it into boiling water. Simmer for 15 minutes, then drain, and continue cooking it in the stock until it is very tender. Reduce the stock to half its original volume and purée the garlic and stock together to make a smooth sauce. Season it to taste.

*For stockists and mail order details of Token Gold squabs, telephone 0379 77358.

Walking the thin yellow line

Twenty-five years ago today, a band of middle-aged men stepped out into the streets of Westminster and issued Britain's first fixed penalty tickets. As *The Times* reported, one of the first victims of the new traffic wardens was chauffeur T. C. Reid. He protested: 'I know it's a restricted street, but there's nowhere else, I have a job to do, you know.'

The excuses haven't changed over the years, but wardens say public attitudes have moved from frank loathing to a kind of grudging tolerance. In the first months of Westminster's experiment, soon to be copied throughout Britain, the new sanctions were seen, however, as an assault on personal liberty. Motorists would hire barristers to plead their case rather than submit to the £2 parking fine - which was trebled in 1975 and is now £10.

Vain efforts were made to repeal the regulations in the Road Traffic Act 1960, which established both the fixed-penalty procedure and the traffic warden service. Peter Cadbury, a leading businessman, resigned from the London Travel Committee in October 1960, saying the behaviour of wardens struck 'at the very foundation of public confidence'. He added: 'The activities of these wardens must very quickly bring the law into disrepute.'

The attack was continued in the House of Lords, where one peer proposed the appointment of women wardens to help to repair some of the damage

Traffic wardens have been writing tickets for 25 years.

Ann Kent reports

on a band of motorists

love to hate

caused to public relations. He was told firmly, however, that the minister, Ernest Marples, 'was certain the job of warden, involving long stints in all weather, was not suitable for women'.

Five years later, Meta Davis became one of the first women to join the traffic warden service. She, incidentally, inspired the song *Lovely Rita* after booking Paul McCartney. She recalled: 'It was dreadful at first. You put on a ticket and ran. You used to have buckets of water and worse thrown at you.'

'After your first angry driver it isn't so bad'

Mrs Davis was a 45-year-old housewife and mother when she joined the service. New wardens now tend to be 18 or 19; and they are given courses in human awareness to help them to cope with angry members of the public.

Particular stress is placed on



Fine blend of newcomers and veteran traffic wardens: (from left) John St Aimee, Denise Gauntlett, Meta Davis, who retired recently, and Ron Vanstone

the importance of eye contact. For this reason, wardens must not wear their hats too far forward on their heads and must avoid sunglasses.

Mrs Amelia Jones, a senior traffic warden controller at Marylebone, said: 'Whether or not wardens run into unpleasantness can largely depend on their attitudes. If you are willing to listen, that is half the battle. We think the less said, the better, but unfortunately women are the worst for always wanting the last word. If you meet an aggressive person and they want to argue, you will never win the argument.'

However, Mrs Jones does not advise wardens to let such drivers get away without tickets. 'You have to be firm but fair', Denise Gauntlett, aged 19 and a warden for 14 months, said: 'I was terrified at first that I would be caught writing the ticket, but once you have done your first angry driver it isn't so bad.'

When motorists become cross, she starts to giggle at what she regards as ridiculous behaviour. 'They are driving big flash cars and getting upset over a £10 ticket!'

The traffic warden service can afford to be fussy about recruits nowadays because employment is a buyers market. Only one in eight may pass the interview panel. Miss Gauntlett, with four O-levels and A-level English, didn't really know what career she wanted, so she joined the service to obtain a little job experience.

Traffic wardens, although employed by the police in London and by local authorities elsewhere, now have their own management structure as well and are asked to sign the Official Secrets Act. Nationally, new wardens are paid £4,699 a year - plus free footwear for men and a shoe and stocking allowance for women; London weighting adds £1,365.

Miss Gauntlett said that she enjoyed the job in general, even point-duty, except when she

was stuck on 'a little point, with no cars in sight'. Ron Vanstone was among the youngest recruits when he joined 24 years ago at the age of 25, after deciding he needed a more regular income than the building trade could provide. 'I expected a bit of aggro and I was right. I have had eggs and tomatoes thrown at me, but the job grows on you.'

'I've had all the straight abuse wardens get'

Mr Vanstone, now a controller at Wembley, sometimes faces comments from people he meets socially. He said: 'I reply that we are doing a good job. People don't like us, but they have grown used to us, and I understand their getting angry. If I've given someone a £10 ticket, I don't expect them to smile at me, but motorists know they are taking a chance when they park on a yellow line.'

His words were echoed by John St Aimee, aged 20 and one of London's few black traffic wardens, who said: 'The interview panel asked how I would react to being abused racially. Well, in 13 months I haven't had one comment about my race, although I've had all the straight abuse that wardens get.'



Amelia Jones: 'You have to be firm but fair'

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THE TIMES DIARY

Inside information

An actor in a play written by ex-gangland killer Jimmy Boyle has had to drop out - because he has been sentenced to 30 days' jail. The play, *The Nutcracker Suite*, is based on Boyle's Barlamin diaries, and is due to open at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh next month. Actor Ian McColl, who won the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance gold medal two years ago, was to have played various parts in Boyle's play, including a prison warden, a critic, and a reporter. McColl's agent, Freddy Young, said he was ill, but when I put it to her that he was in prison, she said: "You can't write about this." A spokesman at the Lyceum, however, confirmed his incarceration. "He was sentenced for driving offences. People like you aren't supposed to know," McColl's agent says. The play is written by Taggart, STV's answer to *The Sweeney*.

Melly making

The Chinese fans who went crazy over Wham may be somewhat publicly confused by the next Briton to perform in China: George Melly. He says he is delighted to accept an invitation from China's cultural bureaucrats who want to "rather confused" by Wham's music. Traditional jazz is more their style. Melly, who was in China at the weekend playing before a strictly western audience at the British ambassador's autumn ball, said he was rung up by a Chinese reporter who said they loved his music. "She also asked about my class background, so I had to tell her I was irreducibly bourgeois."

Exhausted

Yevgeny Saifonov, first secretary at the Russian embassy and among the latest six Russians ordered out by Mrs T, is no doubt ramming a few carburetors into his diplomatic bag as I write. You may ask why - and so may the Kremlin. Saifonov, I learn, was accustomed to taking an official car, a red Lada to a garage in Camden on Saturday mornings and demanding certain parts be replaced even though mechanics said they were in perfectly good order. Saifonov, who always instructed the garage to put the removed parts in his boot, had in the space of a year three new carburetors, two clutches and a new gearbox. Despite his frequent orders the garage has now ceased to trade.

● Monsignor Bruce Kent of the CND is the latest in a long line of unlikely people to get a begging letter from David Owen. An invitation to join the SDP starts "Dear Bishop". Kent told me yesterday: "It is nice to be promoted, even by the SDP..."

Plain cover

The Hungarians have such wit, such class, such style. When it comes to paying the bill in Budapest's restaurants, the smart set don't produce cash from a flashy wallet or purse but a plain brown envelope. It became *de rigueur* the moment Mrs Thatcher was filmed on TV taking her money from an envelope to pay for some fruit during her official visit. Envelopes, of course, are always handed by the FO to politicians going overseas who are entitled to daily allowances, and Mrs Thatcher clearly had not had time to transfer the contents to her purse.

Ken the canny

Here's an Oedipus-style tragedy. The Greater London Enterprise Board is considering suing the GLC - which created and funds it - because of an alleged property overvaluation which has lost the board more than £1 million. Last year the GLC sold the board £5 million worth of buildings, apparently having had them independently valued. A revaluation on three of the properties now shows them to be worth £1 million less than the sale price. The GLC, of course, may have a wider interpretation of the word "enterprise". An undertaking that is "sufficiently committed", or has a strong element of risk...

● The Austrian Institute has come up with a novel way to discourage free-loaders from its private view of Ingrid Ketter's works at the Mall Galleries in London on September 23. "Admit Two, Austrian Wine."

Red and tan

It's not just colour TV sets which are indicted on convicted terrorists in the H-blocks of the Maze prison: sunbeds, it seems, are another burden to bear. Dominic McGlinchey appeared on the first day of his appeal against his murder conviction yesterday looking outrageously bronzed next to the peely-wally warders. With our filthy summer this year even a roof protest cannot do that for a man.

Bailing out

Despite Mrs Thatcher's belief that everybody should own their own home it's not so easy if you are a disabled ex-serviceman. Flying Officer Tony Northmore, who was paralysed from the waist down while serving with RAF transport command, lives in an ex-serviceman's home in Eastbourne at a cost to the taxpayer of £292 a week. Northmore, who is 43, recently bought a bungalow which is being adapted for his wheelchair needs but he now discovers that he cannot afford the monthly repayments of £170 a month. Unless he can obtain a low interest loan, he will be forced to sell and remain in the home.

PHS

Alliance first steps to No 10

by William Wallace

The Alliance is highly likely to be in government in two years' time. The parliamentary arithmetic is impossible to predict, but one glance at the Labour Party's own list of the seats it must win to gain an overall majority, which includes such places as Cambridge, Colne Valley and Plymouth Devonport, makes clear the unlikelihood of Labour coming within reach of single-party government.

A massive recovery of support for the Conservatives is conceivable but improbable. Barring that, the Alliance will emerge as a central factor in the formation of the next government and in the business of government thereafter.

The Alliance needs to be thoroughly prepared for the sharp scrutiny which will be directed at its policies and approach in the run-up to the election, for the hard negotiations which may well follow the result, and for the strains of government. And it needs to prepare as an Alliance.

Theological arguments about separate identities or merger are irrelevant when it comes to the business of winning and holding power. The experience of Alliance groups sharing power as coherent entities in local authorities has much to teach the two parliamentary parties. To operate effectively, under pressure, they need to establish a basic mutual trust and understanding as strong at the national level as at the local, and they need to

be agreed in principle and in detail on the political approach they intend to follow.

The Anglo-American alliance during the Second World War could not have succeeded without the mutual respect and commitment of Roosevelt and Churchill. But it required the creation of integrated staffs of British and American officers and civilians, working together within a clear chain of command, to achieve agreed objectives and to carry the alliance through three-and-a-half years' hard and successful fighting.

Over the past few months the Liberal-SDP Alliance has at last begun to lay the groundwork for such an integrated operation. The joint leaders' committee will begin to operate this autumn with a tighter agenda, a revised membership, and a new title ("The Alliance Strategy Committee") to oversee preparations for the election and after.

The two parties' policy committees agreed in July to meet more regularly, as work proceeds on the Alliance "priorities for the '90s" programme, to be presented to each of the party conferences next year. A common election planning unit, to be headed by John Paddoe, has been agreed in principle. That's real progress. But there is still a great deal more to be done, and quite possibly less than two years to election D-Day.

The Alliance still resists very heavily on the personal relations between its two leaders. The leadership needs to be deepened and broadened, moving (as Shirley Williams has strongly argued) to the establishment of a team for government, based on the two parliamentary parties but drawing in others.

That team must define the priorities for the first Queen's Speech and for any post-election negotiations. It is vital that it consider the relationship between the Alliance policy programme and Liberal proposals for political reform, and cover ways both to harness the professionalism of Whitehall to radical objectives and to recreate self-respect in a demoralized public service. Candidates who may well find themselves adjusting to the novelties both of Parliament and of government office in the weeks after the election will have to be briefed in their intricacies and inoculated against their seductive charms.

If this were a military alliance, such preparations might be enough. But the Alliance is a political movement, of two democratic parties held together by voluntary effort. As David Owen argued when leaving the Labour Party, a progressive political movement must rest on the participation and consent of its individual members, not on the

baronial influence of a small number of powerbrokers.

As the two leaderships develop their proposals to challenge the conventional wisdom of British politics, they must also ensure that they carry their members wholeheartedly with them and persuade others to join the campaign. Joint meetings of candidates from the two parties are a necessary first step in creating the common commitment needed to hold the Alliance together when the going gets rough. Joint regional gatherings, with grassroots members of both parties discussing common issues, might come next.

The Alliance proclaims a distinctive approach to British politics, marked by negotiation and cooperation rather than confrontation, and by the language of priorities rather than the rigid checking-off of manifesto commitments. It will expect the other two parties to adjust to that approach, whatever their insistence on unilateral politics in the run-up to the election.

The more effectively we demonstrate that approach and style within our own movement, the stronger our advantage in bargaining with the barons of the old political order. The two weeks after the election may offer us the chance to change the structure of British politics. We need to get ready, in the time available before the election, to use that chance to the full.

The author is vice-chairman of the Liberal Party Standing Committee.

After Brave Defender, Victor Suvorov sends a message to Nato



In the bag: 'spetsnaz' prisoners rounded up during last week's exercise.

Secretaries, generals, police chiefs and top diplomats. Leaders of opposition parties would also be targets, since they could form a provisional government, as would the Royal Family.

Next is the communication network: government and military command posts. Nuclear weapons and delivery systems - missiles, aircraft, and submarines, and others - would be prime targets.

In addition to these every attempt would be made to paralyse the enemy country by destroying its energy system; power stations, sub units, transmission lines, oil and gas pipelines and storage tanks.

To carry out these tasks spetsnaz forces are provided with special equipment and assistance. Their manpower includes:

● Foreign secret agents recruited in peacetime to gather information on useful people and targets, and to provide spetsnaz units infiltrated into the country with shelter, secret supplies of food, water, transport, fuel, and sometimes with documents and civilian clothes. For certain purposes these agents may be ordered to carry out terrorist attacks.

● Spetsnaz professionals, an elite within an elite who are selected from the best Soviet sportsmen - runners, swimmers, rowers, wrestlers, parachutists, marksmen and others. In peacetime these sportsmen defend the sporting reputation of the USSR abroad, while at the same time studying the countries on whose territory they will operate in time of war. Sportsmen recruit rank and paid extremely well both for their sporting achievements and for their specialized training.

These professionals, disguised as amateurs, form special anti-VIP units and would operate either in civilian clothes or in enemy uniforms. They alone would make

contact with the foreign agents and operate with their help.

● Basic spetsnaz units are selected from specially trained and tested troops, and form the bulk of spetsnaz forces. In a war they would operate in groups of between three and 10 men, sometimes in larger units of 200-300 (battalion strength), and occasionally even 900-1,300 officers and men (brigade strength). The organization is highly flexible; any formation can disperse when threatened and reform later for combined operations.

The military command has to decide whether to infiltrate spetsnaz forces into the target country either before the outbreak of war or at the moment hostilities begin. The best method is thought to be the former with the bulk of the special forces following after war begins.

The invasion of an enemy country by small units before the outbreak of war could be accomplished in various ways. Staff at the Soviet embassy and trade mission could be replaced on the eve of war by spetsnaz soldiers working as watchmen, janitors, gardeners, cooks or drivers. Groups could arrive as tourists or sports delegations. Among such groups there is likely to be a high proportion of women, who tend not to arouse suspicion.

At the critical moment the units would be landed on British territory from Soviet civilian aircraft or the merchant and fishing ships which are always to be found off potential enemy shores. Once war began they would be dropped by parachute or landed from the sea using light boats or sub-aqua gear.

A particular danger is presented by the naval spetsnaz units forming part of the Soviet fleet. They are equipped with midget submarines which could be dropped close to British shores by large submarines or mother ships as seen recently in Swedish waters.

In theory, groups of spetsnaz could operate over wide areas, thanks to assistance offered by agents who had earlier purchased safe houses near large forests, in cities and on the coast. Agents would have obtained vehicles such as Land-Rovers and prepared fuel dumps for them. Spetsnaz agents are very secure; in peacetime it is almost impossible to detect them as they live apparently innocent lives.

Spetsnaz groups would have been trained in torture as a standard method for extracting information on the eve of war. To protect themselves they would murder their own wounded comrades and if the group was in danger they would kill the cypher clerk and destroy his codes. Female operatives are reckoned to be the most ruthless.

Their spirit of suicidal self-sacrifice for the sake of social justice makes the Spetsnaz forces dangerous.

For a long time the West knew little about this organization. Recently, however, its existence has been officially acknowledged by the defence ministries of Sweden, the United States and Britain. Spetsnaz activities have been noted in the Scandinavian countries, Afghanistan, and in Eastern Europe. Recently training centres have been identified, in the USSR.

I fervently hope that other western countries would do well to follow Britain's example and take serious steps to defend their state from the terrorist troops of Soviet military intelligence.

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Victor Suvorov is the literary name of a major in Soviet military intelligence (GRU) who defected to Britain in the late 1970s. He has provided the first account of Spetsnaz from the inside: his book on these special forces is due to be published early in 1986. Translation by Iain Elliot.

Making the world cleaner, tidier, funnier

Beyond Christopher Hitchens' window his two children, a honeysuckle and an unruly hedge disport themselves in the afternoon sun. Order and chaos, in a Norwich suburban house and garden, and the perfect setting for a project in which he is producing a range of baby books for Sainsbury's.

But Winn has designs on the wider scene. He is the amanuensis and representative on earth of the prophet-entrepreneur Belem C. Plenticie, chairman of the Build-A-Planet corporation, by virtue of whom he has delivered himself of a manual for a neater, nicer world, *Legal Daisy Spacing*. Belem tells us that "our happy Universe was once a rough untidy sort of place, a senseless muddle of unruly orbs, a chaos of uncharted places, a swollen parcel of sulky gases and pustular spheres."

It need not be so: Build-A-Planet have a vast range of gizmos, knickknacks and thingummies catering to all nature's excesses. Here, an Authorized Glacier Barrier (cunningly, it works like a country railway level crossing); there a Parish Church Compressor ("Do wear goggles! Modern parish church compressors exert a terrific downward thrust"). Sometimes the idea is almost more important than the

equipment: Surplus Island Storage, for instance, simply took the conventional dish rack and saw that it would work for those awkward, scattered attolts that need tidying at the end of the day.

The Forestry Commission will like the Mk 3 Hail Funnel whose optional 10-speed bombardment facility can be used against that "troublesome deciduous tree". Bishops will be glad to avail themselves of the Overnight Lightning Case, which "has been designed to take most standard makes of lightning bolt".

Winn is 33 and has been working toward this wonderful consummation ever since an inspired tutor at Bristol Polytechnic suggested that the Poly itself was a useful world for study. "I've simply become fascinated by the bureaucratic urge to control what was going perfectly well by itself." We were talking on the day when his local paper reported a Saxonmum fruit trader being told he could not sell some French golden delicious apples, not because they aren't, but because the ones he had were too small. Good for children, he said. So sell them to a coffee apple maker, said the EEC regulation.

It all reminded me of the fun the late lamented *Vale* magazine had the



Replacement Galaxies

day it discovered there was a Draft Proposal British Standard Specification for Stiles, Bridge Gates and Kissing Gates (translated into French and German, the whole became Document 77/14543, and was transcribed in 1979 into BS 5709, and amended in 1982). Indeed, Winn/Belem tried out some early Build-A-Planet ideas in *Vale*. "But I don't want anyone to think this is some sort of 'jigsaws of the Earth's tract'" he says, a little sternly. "It is much wider than that."

does say that he found the whole thing growing "with a spiralling logic of its own." But even though he took up illustrating only after two years of English at Brasenose, Oxford, he claims no major literary influences over *Legal Daisy Spacing*.

Well, he concedes, there is a masonic manual (the 1914 constitution of the United Grand Lodge of England) and a useful 19th century handbook for Norwich constables ("They shall not reside or board in a public house or beer house. They are not to receive persons to lodge with them on payment, neither are dogs, pigs or poultry to be kept by them").

Winn would also that Leslie Hore-Belisha is a bigish influence. In just the similarity, for instance, between the Belem's foreword to *Legal Daisy Spacing* and the Minister of Transport's remarks prefacing the 1935 Highway Code. But, best of all, the shade of Heath Robinson hovers over this enterprise. That is why there seems, alongside a sinister streak to it, something innocent, nostalgic and terribly English.

Richard North
Legal Daisy Spacing published by Heinemann on September 30 (£4.95).

Jack Straw

Sanctions: cotton on to the facts

I have been wrestling with the question for 21 years. I dodged it in the S-level history paper. It surfaces in quite unexpected places. Last week I was found on Victoria underground station, transfixed with a "vacant look" as a colleague put it, still seeking an answer. "Is the purpose of history to tell the truth or to make men better?" There are no sadistic like those who set our public examinations.

I would still not dare risk the question, although I have reached some tentative views after two decades of musings. There is no single, unqualified truth about events, but there are truths. There are conclusions which can be supported by rigorous analysis of contemporary sources, and there are those which cannot. There are facts and fancy, myths and realities.

What provoked this sudden excursion into history was the possible relevance of a historical fact to the debate on South African sanctions: that during the American civil war Lancashire cotton operatives had wholeheartedly supported the north against the south, despite clear economic interests to the contrary.

It is a powerful and romantic tale. Lancashire depended on the southern states for almost all its raw cotton. War, and the blockade by the north, led to a cotton famine, with most looms and spindles shut down. By December 1862, 247,000 operatives were out of work, 485,000 dependent on poor relief. Despite their overwhelming economic interest in a quick victory by the slave-owning south, the working class of Lancashire nobly supported the north, or so it was said. "They knew that the source of their distress lay in the war, yet they never uttered or entertained the wish that any effort should be made to put an end to it, as they held it to be a war for justice, and for freedom," said Gladstone - after the war had ended.

With Abraham Lincoln, John Bright, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels all asserting the same, it had to be true: for close on 90 years the error was repeated in respectable textbooks on both sides of the Atlantic. But error it was, as some careful debunking research in the early 1970s was to show.

By the end of the civil war, the moral issues were just about clear; and so perhaps were Lincoln's virtues. Everyone wanted to be on the winning side. There were huge, eulogistic meetings in Blackburn and Preston after Lincoln's death. Yet during the war there was probably greater support for the south than the north in Lancashire.

The gradual emancipation of the American black, from the civil war to today, has had a direct impact on the West's new theatre of civil war, South Africa, and America's response to it. Would Reagan have stood on his head and endorsed the principle of sanctions (however mild they were) in the face of certain defeat by Congress? Would Congress have maintained a majority for sanctions in the first place, had it not been for the influence which the American blacks - for all their disparate interests - exercise on Capitol Hill?

Our knowledge of America's civil

war should "make us better". Trade blockades, and their modern sanitized versions - sanctions - hurt if they are effective. They inevitably hurt innocents - South African non-whites, the states bordering South Africa, workers in Britain - as well as the apartheid government and its supporters.

This is not in my book an argument against strong, effective sanctions. In war there are casualties: since Sharpeville, the apartheid regime has progressively blocked off any hope or possibility of peaceful political change. For non-white South Africa, stripped of rights and freedoms, and increasingly humiliated, violence has become the only effective means of protest, and armed struggle the only likely solution to what is now a revolutionary situation. The white nationalists alone bear responsibility for that reality.

Because of their obduracy, and their instinct - almost a hostile to black rights - any conclusion to the conflict that is not bloody and appalling is difficult to avoid. Effective sanctions may make quicker, and less bloody, the defeat of the apartheid regime. But sanctions on South Africa, to be effective, must also be backed by emergency material support for the frontline states. Lesotho, for example, is a hostage state, totally dependent on South Africa for jobs, income, food and fuel. Botswana has had little rain for four years; its agriculture depends wholly on water boreholes, which in turn depend on fuel transported through South Africa. They could not survive an oil blockade by South Africa for more than five weeks.

The issue of effective sanctions takes Britain, the EEC, and the U.S. straight down the road of direct support for the economies of the frontline states, for airlifts to Lesotho. It may involve military support as well, since an escalation of armed intervention by South Africa in these states is a very likely response to sanctions by the Botha regime. We cannot baulk at these consequences.

After Iran, and Vietnam, and El Salvador, should we not for once back the side that is not only right but which is bound, in the end, to win? Since morality is an unrecognizable force in Downing Street, what about expediency?

Gladstone sought retrospectively to immortalize the myth of working class support for the slaves, because his own hands, and those of most of the British establishment, were unclean; they had supported the south, Lincoln's chief source of intelligence from Britain during the civil war was that of the U.S. diplomat, Charles Francis Adams, who complained bitterly of the "impuncturable stupidity of the British mind". As well as a craven immorality, there is an impuncturable stupidity in the present appeasing stance of the British government to the Pretoria regime. If our hands remain unclean, it will not be as easy to rewrite history now as it was for Gladstone 120 years ago.

The author is Labour MP for Blackburn.

moreover... MJ13 KYHTOH

From Britain with love

I have much enjoyed writing for *The Times* these last three or four years, so it has come as a great shock to be asked by the Foreign Office back to Moscow. Perhaps not many readers were aware that I was planted in these pages by the KGB to undermine the morale of British readers by satirizing the present state of British society. Fewer still will know that I was also in the pay of British Intelligence to write incomprehensible humour that would worry my Russian paymasters. Very few on either side realized that I was a triple-agent, being well paid by the Pork Scratchings Service Area on the MI to mention their name whenever possible.

Whether I have succeeded in any of these objectives I do not know, but the money has been very good (I was also paid a small fee by the newspaper itself) and I am understandably sorry to be going back to my Russian mother country. However, I must not indulge in the Russian habit of emotional overstatement, so I shall confine myself to this farewell occasion to venturing a few comments on this curious country of yours.

I think the first thing that strikes a stranger is your love of disasters. Plane crashes and train crashes are your favourites, although you are very fond of coach disasters too. I am always amused to switch on the main bulletin of world news and find that a head-on train collision in Portugal is the most important thing that happened anywhere in the world that day. Especially as the news reader always adds: "No Britons are thought to have been involved", with a lingering air of regret.

I am impressed by the continuing honesty of private life compared with the dishonesty of public life. In your theatres, for example, drinks reserved for the interval are always left unattended where anyone could take them, yet nobody ever does. And I often think, as I rush to the bar during the interval and grab the nearest gin and tonic, kindly paid for by someone else, that this could only happen in England.

I am amazed by the admiration shown by the British for useless knowledge. Quizzes, general knowledge games, *Mastermind* - they are endemic to you. Could any other nation enjoy the spectacle of a civil servant answering questions on

cooking recipes mentioned by Jane Austen or songs sung during the First World War? Could any other nation have invented the *Guinness Book of Records*? Even your public life is conducted like a quiz. When I hear Mr Kinnoch in Parliament say to Mrs Thatcher: "Is the Prime Minister aware that on July 17, 1983, she told this House that...?" I always expect him to award her two points if she gets the answer right.

I love your fascination with the last war, which only equals our own Russian preoccupation. They spring from two quite different reasons, of course: in our case it is because it is the last time we threw out an invader, in your case because it is the last time you won anything. You seem to win world wars more often than Wimbledon.

I love the way you give your industrialists knighthoods twelve months before their business goes terribly wrong - Freddie Laker, Clive Sinclair, etc. When Richard Branson's boat turned upside-down, I half expected to see a retrospective knighthood to be flown out to him.

I love your English countryside, and the way you set fire to it each autumn. I love your American TV programmes - did you realize that you find it easier to understand your American cousins than your cousins in Newcastle, Belfast or Glasgow? I love your British weather, the only kind which changes several times during a weather forecast. I love the way you say "You mean British" whenever I say "English", and "You mean Scottish" whenever I say "British", or indeed vice versa.

Above all, I love your English food, and nothing has given me greater pleasure than to drive down the M1 at a weekend or at lunch-time and sample the delicious fare available at the Pork Scratchings Service Area, where I have spent many happy hours in the cafeteria queue. But now, alas, it is time for me to pack my bags and return to Russia, prior to being sent somewhere else. I hope and pray that I do not end up as a columnist on the *Kahul Times*. Meanwhile, this column will be taken over tomorrow by another nominee of the KGB, the same name. I wish him, and you, luck, farewell, and thank you for all those theatre interval drinks.

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THE HARD GRAFT OF WELFARE

Mr Norman Fowler. Had the cabinet reshuffle moved him from the Department of Health and Social Security, he could have left with a crown of glory. The blueprint for a new welfare state he introduced this summer was generally well-received - an expected bonus to a Government braced for yet another public relations disaster, and a relief that considerably enhanced Mr Fowler's political reputation. Mr Fowler has been left to run his outline plans into a full 'White Paper' design, and his reath is beginning to look more like a crown of thorns. Up to a point, this disenchantment with his ideas was inevitable. The team of representatives to his department, for which the deadline came this week, was bound to consist largely of shrill complaints from those who stood to lose money.

Since Mr Fowler's reform of the cumbersome, confused and unmoderated system of social security in Britain cannot be greeted by the injection of a cash - and is, indeed, rightly intended to save some government money - there is bound to be a substantial number of losers. The huge number of losers that has grown around the state welfare system has made sure the losers' voices were heard. The Government's attempt to mute criticism by delaying the production of illustrative figures proved singularly unsuccessful.

The complaints of the lobbyists need to be sifted through a pretty coarse sieve. A few remain for serious reconsideration. One example is the objection to the proposed shift of benefits for children from mothers to their husbands' pay packets, before the tax system has been reformed to improve the lot of married women. This change would make more sense if the Government was prepared to go ahead with the integration of tax and social security, but it is stopping short of such full-blooded reform.

The illustrative figures, when they appear as promised in the white paper, will make it easier to reach a measured judgement. But on the whole, Mr Fowler's efforts to streamline and simplify the structure of income support are well-directed; where they fail, it is usually because the reforms do not go far enough. Rather greater doubts surround his plans for phasing out the state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS); and it is intriguing that so many of them should have been voiced in the one quarter where the Government expected them to find favour.

The pensions industry, which stands to gain a lot of new business from the privatization of state pensions, has sounded a chorus of disapproval of the Government's plans. These criticisms, too, should be taken with at least a small pinch of salt; some of the large and stately

financial institutions are not the most entrepreneurial elements in the economy, and have a natural preference for the status quo.

Yet many of their objections are well-founded. The Government's plans for phasing out SERPS without tears are expensive and complex; its efforts to substitute compulsory private pensions without adding substantially to industrial costs will oblige the pensions industry to construct a vast number of very modest pension arrangements likely to please nobody. The minimum that employers will be obliged to contribute is only 2 per cent of pay, with employees contributing another 2 per cent; management and administration costs will bite deep into the income of such modest schemes.

There is much to be said for the prevailing view in the industry that Mr Fowler would have done far better to trim SERPS of its extravagant features and retain it as a base on which private pensions could continue to grow naturally. The decision to phase SERPS out is one the Government may come increasingly to regret. However, Mr Fowler would be wise to resist pressure from the pensions industry for the changeover to take place on terms more favourable to its interests. Only last winter, the Government backed down before the might of the City pensions lobby, leaving its tax privileges intact. It is not wise for Governments to give way to any pressure group even once, let alone twice.

BOTH WINNER AND LOSER

Olof Palme's Social Democrats deserved both their victory in the Swedish General Election and the problems it will bring them. Their majority has been reduced, and they are now dependent on the support of the communists but they are still in power, as they have been for all six of the last 53 years.

Within the defeated non-socialist group of three parties, an election was a personal triumph for Mr Bengt Westerberg, the new leader of the liberal Party, who doubled his party's strength in parliament, winning 30 seats. He is personable and appears competent, one of his immediate predecessors managed to combine these qualities; under them the Swedes were accordingly almost equally divided in opinion. But when it comes to choosing between the blocks of left and right, Swedish voters let their ill-thought decisions decide. Even arguments about social engineering or party are largely conducted in terms of subsidies or taxes. Two statistics explain why this should be the case. The first is that 67 per cent of the Swedish GDP is now spent through the public

sector; the second, that a clear majority of the voters in this election - something like 55 per cent - derive their primary income from the State, either as employees or pensioners.

The voters knew in this election - not least because the Social Democrats had told them - that the wealth of the country is generated in the private sector, which cannot be further plundered if the heavy trains are to keep rolling. And Swedish industry has done very well out of the last three years of Social Democratic rule; investment and profits have both shot up, stimulated by the 16 per cent devaluation in 1982, while unemployment has remained extremely low, at 3 per cent openly, and about 7 per cent in real terms. These are achievements for which the Social Democrats deserved their re-election. Even their opponents might agree that the Social Democrats deserved their re-election when they consider the price that Mr Palme's next government will have to pay for the success of his last one.

The "Wage-earner funds," introduced after the Social Democratic victory in 1982, have not proved the disaster their opponents claimed they would. But neither has this

ingenious scheme to bribe the union bureaucracies to accept wage restraint by handing over to them the proceeds of a tax on company profits done what the Social Democrats hoped. The unions took the money, and invested it in industry, but the profits, such as they are, have gone to pension funds; while the union members demanded and obtained wage settlements that have consumed all the advantages of the 1982 devaluation. A very damaging two week strike in the public sector this Spring underlined the inadequacy of this strategy.

Mr Palme's best hope of maintaining economic growth (and thus of winning the next election) lies in taking advantage of the fact that the tax eaters majority is not monolithic. The interests of the producers of State services are frequently opposed to those of their consumers, even if both classes depend on the public sector. There is no natural community of interest between the pensioners and the public sector unions. But the Social Democrats may find this task beyond them now that they are dependent on the support of an intellectually bankrupt communist party. Mr Palme may yet find himself talking to Mr Westerberg.

CHANGING THE OLD GUARD

he resignation of more than 100 members of the Chinese leadership, including the third of the Communist Politburo, is one of the most sweeping changes in China since the communists came to power in 1949. Gone is one of the most venerated figures of the Chinese revolution, the illustrious Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China. Deng Xiaoping, the widow of China's most respected statesman, Zhou Enlai. And gone are the senior generals who until recently held half China's regional commands. This reorganisation is the culmination of a process which has been in progress since the death of Mao Zedong. They reflect the swing away from egalitarianism to acceptance of greater income differentials, as a spur to improved economic performance. They reflect, too, China's return to the international arena of politics and commerce. While most of the retiring officials were regarded in a tradition which respected China as the centre of the world, the new generation has been educated in quite a different tradition and is aware of what China can and must learn from the world outside. The changes also reflect the declining role of the military in a country which is building its future on economic rather than military might.

Indeed, the military sector has lost more than any other in the recent restructuring of China's leadership. It is not only their figurehead, Marshal Ye, who has left the scene. More military men, proportionately than civilians, have retired from the central leadership, and in recent months China's whole regional command structure has been reorganised so as to halve the number of senior commanders. Deng Xiaoping's declared

were made to extract that resignation?

In another respect, the changes epitomize the transformation of Chinese society generally since the death of Mao Zedong. They reflect the swing away from egalitarianism to acceptance of greater income differentials, as a spur to improved economic performance. They reflect, too, China's return to the international arena of politics and commerce. While most of the retiring officials were regarded in a tradition which respected China as the centre of the world, the new generation has been educated in quite a different tradition and is aware of what China can and must learn from the world outside. The changes also reflect the declining role of the military in a country which is building its future on economic rather than military might.

Indeed, the military sector has lost more than any other in the recent restructuring of China's leadership. It is not only their figurehead, Marshal Ye, who has left the scene. More military men, proportionately than civilians, have retired from the central leadership, and in recent months China's whole regional command structure has been reorganised so as to halve the number of senior commanders. Deng Xiaoping's declared

purpose in restructuring the Chinese leadership has been twofold: to ensure a smooth transition from the older generation, now in their seventies and eighties and fast falling; and to ensure the continuation of the economic policies he pioneered - the opening-up of the economy to the West and the acceptance of self-enrichment as a way to the enrichment of all. It is this transition and these policies which are expected to be endorsed at the special national conference of China's Communist Party, which opens today.

But what no conference, however unanimous its decisions, and no ageing leader, however respected, can do is to guarantee the survival of his policies after he is gone. There is a chance that the leadership changes and the policies to be decided at this week's conference will indeed provide a stable course for China's development into the next century. If they do, Deng Xiaoping will have succeeded where many a communist leader has failed. If, on the other hand, the new officials - many of whom are themselves the offspring of retiring officials - settle into their armchairs as comfortably as their parents did, then in twenty years' time, China will again be confronting problems of change which will be no less urgent than the problems facing China today.

Certificate details

From Mr R. G. Hodgson
In Surely your correspondent Ms Allen (September 4) has allowed her astonished indignation to confuse or perceptions in asserting that "it does without saying, of course, that the mother's name goes under that of the father on the (marriage) certificate".

This will be news to most of us. If

true, it would be good news; at least to the extent that, "realities of the 1980s" apart, anyone with general logical interests would always welcome any addition in the information recorded.

One's only fear is that any such steps would inexorably lead to increases in the charges exacted for copy certificates supplied from the public records. If Ms Allen thinks it is time for change perhaps it is also

time to reconsider the case for the availability of cheaper, unsealed "information only" copies of certificates for those who want merely the facts for their own sake and not for any legal purpose or proof.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. HODGSON,
Crossings,
Imbham Wood,
Crowborough,
Sussex.
September 4.

Teachers' feeling of injustice

From Mr Brian Larkman
Sir, Your "unit costs/falling rolls/value for money" equation (leader, September 14) is a sad over-simplification of what is actually happening in our schools. Many inescapable costs - heating, lighting, repairs, caretaking, ancillary and County Hall staffing, to list just a few - remain constant despite falling rolls.

In most of our schools the decline in numbers represents only a tiny proportion on the level of each individual school. Thus unit costs are inflated whilst pupils and their teachers see little, if any, improvement in resources.

By constantly harping on the minute minority of incompetent teachers, Sir Keith Joseph and his supporters have done a grave disservice to our State system. By using the current negotiations as a lever to impose a new, more tightly drawn contract of service, Sir Keith may be guilty of further damage. Many teachers will see the new contracts as a slight to their profession. It implies that they are not to be trusted.

As I reach the end of my career I fear that clock-watching, and the strict adherence to the new "rule book" will become the order of the day in our schools. The tradition of the extra-curriculum, which has enhanced the lives of countless British schoolchildren, could be lost for ever.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LARKMAN,
The Staff Common Room,
Blythwick School,
St. Clements Hill,
Norwich,
September 15.

Soviet expulsions

From Mr Patrick Kemp
Sir, Surely the best way to avoid future inequitable action by Russia in relation to the expulsion of embassy staff would be to insist that the number of Russians accredited to this country should not exceed the number of Britons accredited to Russia.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK KEMP,
Round Hill Lodge,
Hockering Road,
Woking,
Surrey.

From Mr E. R. Burtenshaw
Sir, I am a simple fellow, and there is one aspect of *l'affaire Gordievsky* which puzzles me. The Press has been writing with its usual prolixity and incandescence about the amount of information which will now become available upon this gentleman's defection while, at the same time, revealing that he has been in our employment for some considerable time.

If, indeed, he has been so employed, why is this information not already in our possession?

Yours faithfully,
E. R. BURTENSHAW,
11 Bridge Court,
Taplow,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire,
September 15.

Unfair to Liverpool?

From Mr David Alton, MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill (Liberal)
Sir, I read with interest your editorial of September 10 and was particularly concerned by your condemnation of the voters of the City of Liverpool.

No one in Liverpool deserves the Militant Tendency. The hard-pressed people of Merseyside certainly do not deserve a council which is hell-bent on destroying jobs and services and wrecking the city's already tarnished image.

It is unfair to blame the electorate for the plight of the city when 100,000 people actually voted against the present Administration and only 90,000 voted for it.

The situation in Liverpool is an unfortunate but striking example of our inequitable electoral system. A proportional system would have ensured for the city a council run for the benefit of Liverpool's people and not one determined to exhaust its human and financial resources for confrontation and partisan purposes. Electoral reform is greatly overdue, especially in local government. So much is the pity that the House of Commons defeated my Proportional Representation (Local Government) Bill which I introduced earlier this year.

Blaming the victim is easy but unfair.
Yours sincerely,
DAVID ALTON,
House of Commons,
September 13.

In a shady nook

From Dr C. Watkins
Sir, One of the most unpleasant, yet useful, attributes of most towns is their open-air car parks. They are usually very unsightly. In cold weather they are windswept; in sunny weather cars become too hot. A simple way to solve this problem would be to plant forest trees such as oak, beech, chestnut or plane actually within the car park. This can be done successfully, without reducing the capacity for cars, as shown by examples to be found on the Continent. In this country all we seem to get are rather dull beds of cotoneaster and berberis full of waste paper.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WATKINS,
University of Exeter,
Mardon Hall,
Streatham Drive,
Exeter,
Devon,
September 10.

Paradox of the Queen's powers

From Mr Philip Allott
Sir, The difficulty of advising the Queen in the event of a general election which leaves no party with an overall majority in the House of Commons stems especially from two conceptual peculiarities of the British Constitution in its present state.

The first is that we manage to hold at one and the same time two different views of the nature of her Majesty's Government. One is the Royal Household view. The other is the Committee of the Commons view. The former assumes that the present form of the Government is in line of unbroken succession from the court of a medieval monarch. The latter gained strength in Victorian Britain from the joint-stock company view of the Constitution, which saw the Government as the board of directors entrusted with the day-to-day running of the country and answerable to the shareholders through their representatives. It is obvious that the two views lead to significantly different approaches to the role of the Queen in appointing the head of the Government.

The second peculiarity concerns the remaining powers of the Queen. The gradual development of the notion of the political celibacy of the Monarch has nevertheless left the Queen with some of the most significant powers in the whole constitutional system. But they are powers which seem to be virtual duties.

We normally call them powers - to appoint the prime minister, to dissolve Parliament, to assent to legislation, to create peers, to appoint the most senior judges. But the essence of a legal power is choice. The power-holder's choice is legally protected if it is within the legal limits of the power. Hence the paradox of the Queen's powers. They are powers which are subject to some sort of duty to exercise them in a certain way - most commonly, the duty to act on the advice of her ministers.

It would not be advisable to abandon either of the apparently more archaic of the alternative conceptions, merely to solve one particular, if difficult and important, constitutional problem.

The Royal Household view reflects the fact that the Government is very much more than a part of the legislature. Its powers over every aspect of our lives are exercised by hundreds of thousands of Crown servants. The exercise of those powers, if it is effectively controlled at all, is controlled by courts and tribunals and public opinion and only to a limited extent by Parliament.

Calling the tune

From the Leader of the Greater London Council
Sir, Bernard Levin's descent into peevish playground abuse over the GLC's attempt to discourage artists from performing in South Africa (September 12) will surely come as an enormous surprise to all those Times readers who so admired his stand against the Moscow Olympics. I well recall how he wrote on March 4, 1980:

It behoves me to ask our athletes, severally and collectively, what makes them think that they are exempt from the general obligations of human beings not to behave like brutes. Why, because their splendid bodies can run faster or jump higher than other people's, do they suppose they need not mind about helping tyrants to further tyranny.

I invite readers to decide for themselves whether or not the same arguments apply to cultural contacts with South Africa.

Mr Levin was equally firm in his support for a compulsory national boycott of the Olympics.

The British Olympic Committee, if its members were so minded and if it were part of an international joint action, could and should call off British participation (January 17, 1980).

Not much support there for athletes - or artists - freedom of conscience.

The GLC's use of a contract clause to try to ensure that cultural

To continue to treat the Queen's powers as powers rather than merely as duties reminds the otherwise almighty Government that the Queen is also a sort of representative of all the people, a trustee acting on behalf of the whole nation. In advising her to exercise her powers the Government is advising her in that role and not merely advising her to do the will of the Government. The powers of the Government to advise the Monarch are also legal powers and hence have legal limits.

To square so many circles in solving the problem of an indecisive general election is clearly an exceptionally difficult task. The best solution would seem to be to accept that, in the matter of the appointment of the prime minister, the Committee of the Commons view has tended to become the operative conception and that, in this specific matter, the conception of the Queen's powers as virtual duties is the safer one. It would follow from this that the Queen's room for choice should be reduced as much as possible and that the will of the Commons should be treated as paramount.

In practical terms, this might mean that a political consensus might be allowed to develop before the next general election to the effect that there would be available someone with whom the leaders of the parties in the new Parliament would consult as soon as the indecisive result was known. That person would ascertain whether, alone or as part of a coalition, the leader of the party with the largest number of seats would have the prospect of sufficient day-to-day support in the Commons and, if not, which party leader would have such support.

The Queen would act on the advice of this adviser. The adviser might be the Speaker or a former Speaker or any other person acceptable to the leaders of the parties in the present Parliament.

By this means a new constitutional convention would be created, to be enriched in due course by much anguished experience of its application in practice. That convention would be added to the intricate structure of the Constitution but should not be seen as resolving the precious and fruitful ambiguities about the nature of the Government and the nature of the Queen's powers.

Yours truly,
PHILIP J. ALLOTT,
Trinity College,
Cambridge,
September 16.

sanctions against South Africa have real force applies exactly the international and humanitarian principles about which Mr Levin wrote so eloquently five years ago. Our application of sanctions mirrors much international action, including President Reagan's recent decision to apply economic sanctions - however minor - against apartheid.

The actors' union Equity have themselves imposed a ban on the sales of film or TV material featuring their members in South Africa. It is precisely these sorts of internationally co-ordinated actions which have helped produce the recent changes in the forms of apartheid.

I object strongly to Mr Levin's grossly insulting debasement of the English language when he tries to write off our genuine attempts to isolate apartheid as the actions of the "fascist left". Why does he not deal with the substance of the overwhelming case for sanctions instead? And if we are the "fascist left", then so, I suppose, are the foreign ministers of those EEC countries who have been pushing for a radical extension of sanctions to force further concessions from the South African Government.

Yours faithfully,
KEN LIVINGSTONE, Leader,
Greater London Council,
County Hall, SE1,
September 13.

'Tax on morality'

From Mr Edmund Hayward
Sir, Lady Elites's letter (August 30), in response to Sarah Hogg's article "Tax for richer or poorer" (August 9), displays an ignorance of current tax legislation.

Her reference to the repealed section 354 of the Income Tax Act 1952 instead of the current provision, section 37 of the Taxes Act 1970, is not a good advertisement for the research facilities at Westminster or at the European Parliament.

She then conveniently proceeds to ignore the procedure available under section 38 of the 1970 Act for separate assessment (which must not be confused with separate taxation of wife's earnings under section 23, F.A. 1971). Separate assessment does not and cannot affect the total tax liability of a married couple, but divides this liability between the parties in proportion to their contributions to the joint income.

Armed Forces chaplains

From Mr S. Seuffert, QC
Sir, As a layman and one who served in the ranks in the First World War, I read with interest Clifford Longley's article (September 9) on the status of Catholic chaplains being reviewed by the Catholic hierarchy. I would like through the courtesy of your columns the opportunity to express the hope the bishops will not alter the status of the RC chaplains in the Services.

I have known both naval and Army chaplains who were proud to

hold the commission but did not in anyway flaunt it. I also know from personal experience that the men not only respected them, but believed that as the holders of rank they were better able to help and at times protect them and at the same time assert their rights as chaplains. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
S. SEUFFERT,
2, Gaywood,
Harrow Road,
Bickley,
Bromley,
Kent,
September 9.



ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 18 1809

One more episode in the Napoleonic wars which were to dominate the pages of *The Times* during its formative years: *The Walcheren expedition led by John Pas, 2nd Earl of Chatham, with 40,000 troops took Flushing but failed to follow up that success by an attack on Antwerp. The mortality from disease was heavy and the place was evacuated in December, 1809. A Commons inquiry was held into Chatham's conduct.*

FLUSHING, SEPTEMBER 14.

The sickness of the troops continues to increase. The return of sick for one regiment alone (the 98th) was this day 459 men and 10 officers. Of the 15,000 men ordered to remain in garrison on the island of Walcheren, there are above 10,000 in hospital. The deaths of the army are on an average from 25 to 30 men a day. There are different reports in circulation, respecting the intentions of Government to keep or to evacuate the island, and respecting the opinions of the principal military and naval officers as to the practicability of keeping it. Many say that Government has no idea of keeping it permanently; others assert, from what they call the best authority, that it is resolved to keep it at all risks; and others again declare, from what they call the most minute enquiry and investigation, that the risk is to be encountered in such a determination almost to a certainty that the enemy can come in upon us with a force so vastly superior, as to ensure to them the re-conquest of the island. These persons state, that the Admiral (OTWAY) has reported that he cannot answer for keeping his station permanently off Flushing during the winter. I am not capable of judging of the advantages England may derive from keeping possession of Walcheren, but it is evident to every person, that our keeping it will be attended with a vast expense to the nation. In addition to a strong naval force, we must constantly keep up a garrison of from 15 to 20,000 effective men; and, if we may judge by the present unhealthy state of the army, this cannot be done without a very frequent and troublesome interchange of such and healthy regiments with depots at home, nor without a positive and certain loss of at least 1000 men a year. I have been assured, that the French, though having an infinitely smaller force than we propose to keep up, lost, in this island alone, 700 men a year, on an average. As the island is not capable of affording supplies of any of the principal necessities, every thing must be brought at great expense and inconvenience from England, and of course the arrivals could not always take place with the certainty and regularity that would be wished. The troops are at present supplied with salt rations, which were found in one of the French stores in this town. I have heard that public property, to a very large amount, has been found upon this island. I wish it may be true, but I have not been able to ascertain the fact. It is also said, that a depot, of specie, to the value of three millions, had been discovered in South Beveland, and removed before the evacuation; but this I discard at once, as too good to be true. A great number of men are now constantly at work in repairing the damages done to the fortifications round Flushing. We have embarked and sent to England a number of the brass guns taken here and on South Beveland; and some consider this a symptom of returning by and by ourselves; though the repairing of the fortifications appears to contradict that supposition. They are very busy every day in taking to pieces the line of battle ships found on the stocks here. Their timbers, together with what has been found in the dock-yard, and the stores in the arsenal, will be sent home immediately.

Ulster strip-searches

From Senator John Robb
Sir, A year ago the New Ireland Group expressed informally to the "authorities" our concern for the practice of routine strip-searching in Armagh Women's Prison. Subsequently, we were informed by one of those who had campaigned most vigorously against the process that it was decreasing. From what we learn - *Sunday Sequence*, BBC Northern Ireland (September 8) - it proceeds unabated.

We hold that it is inexcusable to subject prisoners to routine strip-searching when it should be possible, by using appropriate detection technology, to determine without loss of dignity the basic information that is necessary for security purposes in our prisons. The practice of routine strip-searching must be stopped.

In any case, to aim for 100 per cent security in a democratic society purporting to respect human rights and dignity is a contradiction. Even Mrs Thatcher made this point after the Brighton bomb.

If this emotive issue is not rapidly resolved it will become yet another focus of escalating protest, with the inevitable consequences for life and limb of protestors, police and prison officers etc. Apart from being degrading and offensive, strip-searching is political dynamite in Northern Ireland and it is now on a short fuse.

Yours etc,
JOHN ROBB, Chairman,
New Ireland Group,
Fountain Centre,
Castle Street,
Belfast,
September 9.

Slow a-going

From Mr Richard Rathbone
Sir, It is characteristic of your modesty that you tuck your most exciting discoveries away in the unlikely places. Is it really true that Henry V resigned between 1413 and 1422 as your Anniversary column (September 16) informs us? Historians and a fairly large number of medieval Frenchmen need to see proof and not just bald assertions of this sort.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD RATHBONE,
17 St. Paul's Place, N1,
September 16.

THE ARTS

Opera

Paul Griffiths witnesses the British premiere of Stockhausen's *Donnerstag aus "Licht"* at Covent Garden and finds it both sublime and smutty, spectacular and silly

A great creative mind talks to itself

There was a strange little item in the programme book for the original La Scala production of *Donnerstag aus Licht*, where Stockhausen gave snap answers to 37 questions. What, he has asked, was his besetting sin? That of taking everything seriously. But this should not be a problem for anyone else attending his opera: one can hardly respond seriously to a work which itself shows such a deep lack of seriousness in its treatment of its basic theme, which is nothing less than the salvation of the world.

The real reasons for going to see *Donnerstag* — and they should be enough to persuade anyone — are that it contains much quite extraordinary music and that Michael Bogdanov has produced an evening that is breathtakingly spectacular yet honest in taking account of the opera's discrepancies of vision and its weird mixture of cosmic imagination with juvenile smut and artistic shoddiness.

I cannot think there was ever any question of the thing working at face value, as a ritual of the redeemer. Michael's education, earthly journey and return to heavenwards. Even Stockhausen himself, at one level, is not convinced by it: hence what must surely be a deliberate marring of the grand strategy in his introduction of an old woman to interrupt the triumphs of the last act and be futiley attacked by a toy tank.

Idiosyncies like that, and there are others, do not withdraw

disbelief from the rest, as Stockhausen would seem to intend, acting like a satyr play to point up the seriousness of the main business. They cannot serve that purpose because one sees through Stockhausen's attempts at comedy, poignancy, celestial splendour or any of the other cards he plays.

But if the opera, never for a moment works as the mystic revelation it pretends to be, it remains utterly fascinating as a document of a great creative mind talking to itself. Obviously the three main characters are projections from within the composer's psyche: they are even intended as such. Michael in the first act is made to re-live aspects of Stockhausen's own remembered and idealized past: Eve is the sunny mother figure who first appeared as his female alter ego 20 years earlier in *Monente*; and Lucifer, is the intellectual planner in him, counting out steps before he takes them.

Beyond that, the whole of *Donnerstag*, and perhaps the whole of the *Licht* project to which it belongs, is a Luciferian construction, into which has been shoved some Michael-style vision and a touch of Eve-style humanity. It is as if some elaborate machine were held together with bits of muscle and internal organs. It cannot conceivably function, but it is very wonderful to contemplate — wonderful, that is, when it is not just silly.

Mr Bogdanov succeeds so

well with the piece because he takes it as it comes. If there is realism, as there is when Michael's mother is taken off to a lunatic asylum, then it is done with brutal simplicity. If there is adolescent sexual fantasy, then there it stands: the breast-bird-woman is just brought on, and only Suzanne Stephens, who has to play the role, seems embarrassed. Mr Bogdanov also accepts the high-club aura of the second act, and with no cue from the libretto dramatizes it by means of neon lights and tiny stereotypes of the characters. Michael meets in his journey around the world, mechanics in Cologne, sumo-wrestlers in Tokyo, a dancer in Bali, a drum major in New York. This is not to ridicule the music but to justify its being as it is, and in the third act too, the production achieves the astonishing along with the vulgar and banal.

Both these later acts depend on outstanding work from the designer Maria Bjornson and lighting man Chris Ellis. The earth for Michael's journey is a rotating sphere of scaffolding with a central stairway, seen against the constellations. It is a magnificent vehicle for a trumpeter to stride about in, and a beautiful object for illumination.

Mr Ellis comes into his own, though, in the "light compositions" with which Eve greets Michael in the third act: a shower of spangles through rainbow clouds, a great rising

disc of multi-coloured flashes, and a spectro-display brought on by "moon children" bearing giant prisms.

On the technical side, there must also be praise for the sound team, working under Stockhausen's direction as aural projectionists. The singers, and the solo instrumentalists whose roles are quite as important, are all amplified and so are the orchestral players, but that does not disguise either the richness and power of the score as conducted by Peter Eötvös or the feats of memory, virtuosity, conviction and tact achieved by the soloists.

Annette Meriweather's laughing presence is a delight as Eve in her soprano persona. Markus Stockhausen as the trumpeter Michael looks and sounds the golden hero, while Julian Pike, with something of the aspect of the young composer, progresses with firm authority from baby talk to visionary pronouncements.

Lucifer's starkness and severity are well-represented by the bass Nicholas Isherwood and the trombonist Michael Svoboda; his dangerous, feline plausibility comes from the dancer Alain Louafi. David Smeyers and Beate Zelinsky are splendidly funny clarinetist-clowns, and Bow Street police station does Stockhausen proud in providing accommodation for the trumpeters who fanfare the audience away after this astonishing evening.



Three Michaels: (from left) Markus Stockhausen, Michele Noiret and Julian Pike

Television
Scientific
pit of
misery

Mengele (Central) was concerned with the "Angel of Death", the "monster" who after the war became almost a legendary figure — a living equivalent of such imaginary scientists as Frankenstein or Dr Moreau. Mengele, in some ways more than Hitler himself, came to represent a kind of impersonal evil — a man for whom all the world was a laboratory.

One of the more disturbing aspects of an altogether horrifying documentary, however, was the fact that Mengele himself was not a solitary or even a particularly unusual case: he was simply one of the more notorious members of the whole medical establishment in Germany, one of those intellectuals and academics who lent a certain respectability to the "philosophy of fascism".

The personal testimony was of the same sort: as a young man Mengele was industrious and good-humoured, a conventional young scientist who just happened to become interested in genetic theory. In fact Mengele's own mentor in the field of genetic research, the eminent professor who encouraged the Auschwitz doctor to continue his experiments on the bodies of twins, continued his respectable academic career after the war.

Last night's programme also displayed the bones of Mengele's victims, still to be seen in the Max Planck Institute in Berlin and, in the process, suggested that Mengele himself was only a very grim instance of that "scientific mind" which reifies "impersonality" or "objectivity".

This was of course a timely programme, released only months after the news of Mengele's apparent death; and not the least fascinating part of the story lay in its reconstruction of Mengele's existence after the war. (His family were quite happy to despatch him to South America, primarily because their business might suffer from any connection with him: if there is anything more contemptible than the atrocities of German science, it is the spectacle of the solid German bourgeoisie who sickened at nothing except the loss of profit.) And so he survived on another continent: at first happy in exile — "... he liked making jokes", one of his colleagues in a Buenos Aires pharmaceutical company remarked — but slowly sinking into that pit of misery and degradation into which he had consigned others and which now each day he dug for himself.

Peter Ackroyd

Early next year the Royal Opera House hope to bring performances of *Donnerstag* to a wider audience, with the assistance of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. The new scheme is for members of the public who have never seen a ballet at the Royal Opera House. On January 10, 11, 13, 15 and 16, 1986 there will be six performances of *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker* and *Manon*; no seat will cost more than £5.

More Bigger Snacks
Now
ICA

The Perrier Award for comedy at this year's Edinburgh Fringe went to this energetic but disappointing mime piece from the Théâtre de Complicité. Joke name, joke title: there are not many laughs to be had from mineral water either.

The setting will be familiar to youngsters and nostalgic for older ones: the sitting room of a dingy student flat with a lampshade and a sofa supported by empty crates. The four tenants (Timothy Barlow, Jozsef Houben, Marcello Magni, Simon McBurney) appear to be in a state of trance induced by alcohol, poverty and boredom.

While their television set blares the hypnotized watchers trip over one another, spill mugs of tea, display fleeing curiosity in the details of their environment and finally (now here is an old joke recycled) become aware of the audience's presence. Mr Barlow panders the front row for spare change and cigarettes before returning to the stage for the fantasy sequences which flesh out the remainder of the show.

These sequences presumably reflect the characters' disenchantment with received culture, which is a healthy enough response — although one cannot but wonder how they would have reacted had they been watching not opera but *The Young Ones*, a comedy series about four young men sitting around their television set in a dingy student flat.

Neil Bartlett's tight production brings the best out of the players. The most inventive bit has Mr McGurney riding from behind the sofa as a Christ-figure with a dinner-plate halo to dispense alms. If the dead hand of Jerry Lewis could somehow be removed from his shoulder, he might turn into a notable farceur.

Martin Cropper

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A Change in the
Moon
Tabard

An averagely repellent up-and-coming American lawyer (cocky, loquacious, thinks he is a wag) finds himself in a quandary. On the one hand, he inhabits a smart apartment in Bognor, with an ambitious ballet teacher and frequent Yuppy hellholes, such as squash clubs, with an old buddy, from law school, and the "other", he champions the rights of poor immigrants through his Legal Aid practice and also, years to come, to fight back and vote his mind to that old pipe-dream of the frustrated professional, painting.

One of the hardest things to grasp in Jeffrey Beatty's play is the age-group, to which his characters belong. We are supposed to be in the present day, and yet this vigorous young lawyer is a veteran of the Peace Corps, of Buddhism, of blissfully extended surfing trips — all the references, in fact, of grey-flecked middle age — while his girlfriend, supposedly in her late twenties, speaks of a former boyfriend who served in Vietnam (his photographs were "so simple, full of beauty and ... pain").

LSO/Hickox
Barbican

There is a certain piquancy attached to performances of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* in the Barbican, owned and run by the Corporation of the City of London, where the gods of gold and silver are praised.

If the fingers of a man's hand ever do come forth and write something foreboding on the wall of the Stock Exchange, they will probably tell the Corporation to build a bigger hall next time. The extra brass bands had to be transplanted to opposite ends of the upper audience tier, where they certainly made a splendid racket, hurling antiphonal fanfares at each other, but one felt sorry for the sopranos of the London Symphony Chorus, wedged in tight proximity to the stentorian exultations of the LSO percussion department.

Weighed in the balance, however, Richard Hickox's interpretation was found only slightly wanting. His handling of the great central recitative, seemed too careful and calculating to convey properly the score's sudden violence here. Earlier, though, the "Praise ye the Gods" dance had been delivered with swaggering momentum, aided by some spirited wind playing, and the



Soft soap: Stephen Hoyer and Shelley Thompson

Another difficulty is the banality of the plot. Our hero finds himself coming up against his old buddy, now representing an ogreish bank seeking to foreclose the mortgage of a poor immigrant family. His girlfriend falls for a Chilean orchestral conductor, Miffed, he stubs out his pipe dream and makes a deal with his courtroom opponent in exchange for a safe job — only to renege at the last ditch and embrace his original ideals.

These are the motifs of soap opera, though it must be

Concerts

final, exultation chorus was done with irresistible gusto, even if the tempo was too fast for much of the quicker orchestral detail to make any impression.

The chorus had the right degree of explosive energy, projecting Walton's syncretisms (though not always Sitwell's words) with ebullience and clarity.

Before the *Feast* Douglas Cummings could have made more of a meal out of Elgar's Cello Concerto: the LSO strings played well enough in Vaughan Williams's *Fallia Fantasia*, but the work really needs more resonance than this hall can muster.

LEA Schools
SO/Benjamin
Royal Festival Hall

My abiding memory of playing in a youth orchestra is of us bumping urchins being too roughly deflated by one icy rebuke: "You performed passably, but the whole concert was ruined, because some of you were not wearing black shoes."

Youth orchestras have moved on considerably since then. Here, for instance, the composer George Benjamin (only a few years older than some of these players) conduc-

ted a programme which included the premiere of a specially-commissioned piece, *Jubilation*.

The work, though short, aspires to show off the whole gamut of the Inner London Education Authority's musical activities. So behind the Lea Schools Symphony Orchestra was a children's choir, two offstage brass groups, a sextet of very young wood-block exponents, a steel band, and a recorder ensemble.

Nor could one help noticing the pair of synthesizers which heralded the grand finale with some interesting motorbike noises, or the eight cymbal players who added that certain something to the work's climax.

I sensed that the audience around me became a little restless during the evening's second helping of Benjamin — although this was his much-admired 1980 score *Ringed by the flat horizon*. Its sophisticated evocation of a new Mexican thunderstorm did at least allow those of us who were not passing sweets around to admire the skills of this orchestra.

The young players also delivered Mussorgsky, Copland and Berlioz showpieces with great spirit. Oh yes, and they were all wearing black shoes.

Richard Morrison

Theatre

How to please everybody
all the time on Broadway

Highbrow, Middlebrow and Lowbrow shivered with stage-fright as the famous television talk-show host announced: "Tonight we bring you a special feature. Our three guests, whom many consider mortal enemies, have never appeared before the public together. We've persuaded them to share their views about the upcoming New York theatre season, and to introduce themselves by telling us how they came by their unusual names. Let's begin with that distinguished businessman, Mr Lowbrow."

"Thank you. Most people call me a tired businessman", Low responded. "Look, I just like to be entertained. To me, that means musicals, comedies, and the odd drama that makes me feel cheerful rather than confused or depressed."

"We all know Broadway is depressed, and that mood continues with only 10 new shows set to open before the New Year. However, I'm looking forward to seeing Bernadette Peters in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*."

Then there's another British import, *Poppa*, which High says is a sophisticated panto, whatever that is. My wife and kids want me to take them to the Broadway musical of *Wind in the Willows* and the Off-Broadway musical based on Kipling's stories, *Just So*.

"The *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, a big success in Central Park this summer, is being moved to Broadway by the New York Shakespeare Festival, but that's about the end of the musicals which we can count on. Others which I hope will make it include two inspired by movies: *My Man Godfrey*, with lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, and *Smile*, with a Marvin Hamlisch score."

"That's the one he's really hoping for. Highbrow interrupted. "It's about beauty contestants."

Loath to kick High because the camera might pick it up, Low straightened his tie and continued: "As to comedies, things look pretty bleak except for a Broadway revival of *Hay Fever* starring Rosemary Harris — an actress for whom my admiration needs no apologies, even to High. I also hope they send over *Corpus*, because I like thrillers."

"Low has left out some comedies I'd like to mention", High added. "Beaumarchais' *The Marriage of Figaro*, with

Holly Hill and three
New York theatre
buffs look forward to
the coming season

Anthony Heald and Christopher Reeve will open *Circle in the Square* Broadway season, while Off-Broadway there are revivals of *Louie* at the Manhattan Theatre Club and *Mrs Warren's Profession* at the Roundabout Theatre. A novel entry will be *Orchards*, an anthology of Chekhov stories dramatized for The Acting Company by David Mamet, John Guare, Wendy Wasserstein, Maria Irene Fornes, Sam-Ann Williams, Michael Weller and Spalding Gray.

"Oh uh", High stumbled, noticing anxious gestures from the talk-show host. "I'm Highbrow", he announced, lapsing into his professional lecture tone. "I like to think that I never let a second-rate play or production pass without my censure, or a first-rate work without my praise."

"Excuse me", the host interrupted. "Is it true that highbrows generally distrust emotion, preferring plays which provide you with intellectual puzzles or messages you can analyze?"

"It is true that my intellect must be stimulated", High replied, "but I don't think what a jerk the famous host was. I distrust blind emotion, and I abhor sentimentality, but that doesn't mean a play must be intellectual. I recognize the genius of Feydeau."

"Almost a century after the highbrows of Feydeau's day disdained him", Middlebrow teased. "The reason we're friends", she explained to the host, "is that we don't let each other get away with much. Each of us agrees to go to at least three productions chosen by the others."

"Among my drama selections", High proclaimed, "may be the Broadway revival of *The Iceman Cometh* starring Jason Robards, the New York Shakespeare Festival's production of *A Map of the World* and Sam Shepard's new play, *A Lie of the Mind*, which Shepard may direct."

"I'm also anticipating the Circle in the Square's revival of *The Caretaker* with the Stepwolf Theatre Company directed by John Malkovich, Jeanne Moreau in *Night of the Iguana*, Glenn Close and Sam Waterston in *Benefactors* and

Emily Mann's social drama *Execution of Justice* — all on Broadway, if you can believe it — plus Max Stafford-Clark's opening production at Joseph Papp's Public Theater, *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, and the Manhattan Theatre Club's *It's Only a Play* by Terrence McNally."

"My turn at last", exclaimed Middlebrow, beaming at the camera. Now that she had gone back to school for a graduate degree in psychology, Mid was no longer a matinee lady. She fondly recalled her carefree days when she had only husband and children and household to coordinate, without her classes and clinic work.

"In a way", Mid mused, "my taste is the least definable because it embraces everything from a spark to a burst of creativity. I hate pretentious and sloppy as much as I love excellent work, but in between are so many gradations. I try to find whatever is likeable or admirable and enjoy it."

"I can hardly wait for Kevin Kline's Hamlet at the Public Theater, nor for the new version of *Talley and Son* — of Lanford Wilson's third play about the Talley family at the Circle Repertory Company. That will rotate performances with a 1936 Paul Osborne play — you know, he wrote *Mornings at Seven* — and the Manhattan Theatre Club is doing a new play by Mr Osborne starring Frances Sternhagen and Nancy Marchand."

"I do think we have some wonderful actresses. Uta Hagen will star in the *Mrs Warren's Profession* that High mentioned, and Stockard Channing, who won the Tony for *Joe Egg*, will be in the Terrence McNally drama, *Lily Tomlin* is bringing her new comedy show, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* — a "cosmic soup opera", to Broadway. And if the rumours that Vanessa Redgrave may come over in her production of *The Seagull*, and Judi Dench and Michael Williams in Trevor Nunn's staging of *June and the Paycock*, come true, I'll sit quietly through anything else."

"You never sit quietly unless you've fallen asleep", Lowbrow chuckled. "To be honest, I sometimes threaten to go on a bender, High to go on a strike, and Mid to have a nervous breakdown when we've seen too many turkeys in a row. But here we are at the beginning of a new season, hopeful as always. If Broadway is the Fabulous Invalid, we can't stay away from the ward."

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superb writing!
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Every day to Los Angeles, California. And TWA covers a lot more of the Golden State: San Francisco, San José, Ontario, Palm Springs and San Diego. TWA flies to over 60 US cities. See your TWA Main Agent or call TWA on 01-636 4090.

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Another drab day

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept. 16. Dealings End, Sept. 27. \$ Contango Day, Sept. 30. Settlement Day, Oct. 7.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES
Portfolio
DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for
+32 points
Investors should ring 0254-53

Price adjusted for late dealings. No significant

مكثا من الضحل

WALL STREET

COMMODITIES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Early slip for Dow

New York (Agency) - the market headed lower in light early trading yesterday with many traders observing the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 0.45 to 1,308.69 at 11am.

The NYSE listed was down 0.12 to 105.67 and the price of an average share was down four cents.

Declines led advances \$94 to 525 among the 1,701 issues crossing the tape.

First hour big board volume amounted to about 22.69 million shares (18.52 million). Monday's volume was the second lightest for the year.

Mr Alfred Goldman of A G Edwards and Sons, St Louis, said the broad market remained under pressure.

Mr Goldman expects the Dow to follow the broader market indexes lower, falling below 1,300.

Further declines could lead to some institutional dumping, he added.

On the trading floor, Detroit Edison was the most attractive NYSE-listed issue. It was 15-8.

Kerr McGee Corp was up 1/2 to 29 1/2 and Sears Roebuck fell 1/2 to 49 1/2.

Some defense issues were lower, with Boeing easing 1/2 to 45 1/2 and Lockheed down 1/2 to 49 1/2.

A more or less stable pound helped to keep the market quiet yesterday. This was reflected in activity on the floor where call options on the pound traded lower in a dull market.

But commodities had a mixed day. Cocoa and coffee both rose, largely on technical factors, while sugar was down, indicating that more momentum is needed for a sustained recovery. Metals behaved similarly, with copper down and tin and aluminum both doing a little better.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Rubber in p per lb: Soybean meal, coffee and cocoa in p per lb. Gas-oil and sugar in US\$ per tonne.

G W Johnson and Co report

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TEMPUS

Unease over £5m fall in Coats Patons profits

Buyers returned to the gilt pitches yesterday and at one stage the longs were up by nearly 1/2 point. The Government Broker stressed that he was back after a long holiday by selling a small chunk of his long tap at quite impressive prices.

The composition of the PSBR figures also cheered, since local authorities have been lured out of the hock-shops of Lombard Street and back into the Public Sector fold.

Trading setback

Brokers' coded messages put politicians to shame. Such is the pathological reluctance of the broking community to describe a share as a downright sell that all manner of pious asms are invoked to put the message across. But with Coats Patons, the verbal camouflage is wearing thin. The latest delphic message describes the shares as a temporary hold. This is tantamount to calling a spade a shovel.

Unease centres round the interim figures, which produced a £5 million downturn in pretax profits to £38.2 million. This in turn stems from exchange rate swings, and adverse trading conditions in specific divisions in both the United States and Australia.

The problems have been particularly severe in the US, where Reaganomics have provoked a flood of cheap textile imports.

It is tempting to see Congress perhaps bailing Coats Patons out via protectionist measures. But the group itself is more forthright. At present it is weighing whether the problems of its industrial thread division, Coats, is quite as bad as that its remedial action will be swift.

The group stresses that industrial thread accounts for no more than 5 per cent of group assets.

The fact that Coats Patons saw fit to push the interim payment ahead by 15 per cent to 1.9p while reiterating the strength of group cash flow, must therefore be seen as an expression of medium-term confidence. Volumes throughout the group have been good.

Cons Gold Fields

For at least three years now Consolidated Gold Fields has been circling aloft in a holding pattern while the crew busily

rearranges the payload to prepare to climb. It is just possible, given yesterday's results for the year to the end of June, that the company will gain altitude in this financial year.

On the face of it, the story is familiar: about the wonderful things mining has in store, while the profits are actually delivered by Amey Roadstone and the cash disappears out of the door as borrowings mount. Despite the record gold price in rand, sterling receipts, quite logically, fell, so that the contribution of £44.4 million from Gold Fields of South Africa to operating profits of 172 million, up 12 per cent, was in fact 3 per cent lower.

Similarly, direct dividends from gold mines fell 17 per cent to £19.6 million. But Amey Roadstone compensated with a huge £83.5 million, of which £41.6 million came from the United States where a booming concrete pipe business doubled profits. The British side was hit by the bad winter and the miners' strike.

But there are some crucial signs that other parts of the business are finally beginning to turn round. Newmont, of which Consolidated Gold has 26 per cent, raised its contribution by £3 million to £9.3 million. This was due to selling Atlantic Cement.

Nevertheless, Newmont is tackling its copper problems, and energy and gold should come good. By the same token the vastly superior performance from Renison, with a contribution more than tripled at £9.6 million, is an optimistic omen.

Pretax profits up 9 per cent at £115 million and a maintained dividend of 24.5p are not calculated to set investors' hearts racing. Earnings per share rose 7 per cent to 40.7p. Yet this year Consolidated Gold should cut its borrowings from the present £394 million - up £120 million on the year and responsible for the hefty £47.1 million of interest charges - and swing from a cash outflow of £120 million to net inflow.

With £500 million of recent investment behind it, the promises ought then to be realized. By marking the price up 15p yesterday to 442p, where the yield is 7.2 per cent, the market seemed to be sharing the view that Consolidated Gold is again flying on wings and not prayers.

The only obvious turbulence ahead, is South Africa, and there is not much Mr Rudolf Agnew and the crew can do about that.

Fisons

Fisons is in grave danger of acquiring the reputation of being a company which can do no wrong in the City's eyes. After the traumas of the 1970s there is no doubt that it was in desperate need of leadership, which, under the chairman and chief executive, John Kerridge, it has found.

The stock market has not been slow to appreciate the virtues of the new direction which Mr Kerridge has brought to the company. The share price has raced well ahead of the market and suddenly found itself asking - where do I go from here?

The answer yesterday, after the company's interim results, was tentatively downwards. The shares closed down 9p at 351p, after being lower, yet reflecting figures which were at the top end of market expectations.

Pretax profits, at £30.1 million, were far from disappointing, up from £22.6 million. Yet the jobbers could not quite give the figures the credit they perhaps deserved; after all, some brokers were looking for a little more.

Their reaction, in the final analysis, was right. The shares have had a good run in recent months, the underlying performance is good, yet Fisons is a stock which encourages perfect weighting or, as Mr Jeffrey Archer would have it, not a penny more, not a penny less.

The figures reflect this almost perfect form. There was nothing outstandingly brilliant, but, at the same time, there was nothing which blotted the copybook. Across the company's three main divisions the story was the same. In domestic markets Fisons has done well to stand still while overseas there have been some more than compensatory gains.

With the rights issue money, raised earlier in the year, easing the company's balance sheet considerably, there is little on the horizon to cause undue stress for the company's management, allowing it to fulfil its role as a steady, solid, yet broadly-based pharmaceutical stock.

APPOINTMENTS

Coats Patons: Mr James McAdam will take over as finance director on January 1. He will also become chairman of Jaeger Holdings at the end of this year. Mr John Houston will become group financial controller.

Alfred McAlpine: Mr Richard Evans is the new managing director of Alfred McAlpine International. Mr Brian Melling has joined the board of Alfred McAlpine Minerals and Mr David Stott has been appointed head of marketing and sales by Alfred McAlpine Management.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bond bid speculation lifts Imps

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares of the Imperial Group were aglow yesterday as the stock market experienced another drab and dull session.

But it was not the seemingly perennial rumour about the sale of the group's troublesome American offshoot, Howard Johnson, which pushed the price up 7p to 197p.

This time around the market dwelt upon a much more fascinating possibility - a bid from Australia's Bond Corporation for Imps.

Bond is an aggressive Australian group which has been created by Mr Alan Bond. It has just accomplished Australia's biggest ever takeover, the acquisition of the Castlemaine Toohey's Brewing group.

The similarities between a Bond bid for Imps and the signalled offer by Elders, another Australian group, are strikingly obvious.

Scottish Eastern Investment Trust was boosted by the news that Mr Alec Monk, chairman and chief executive of Dee Corporation, is joining the SEIT board as a non-executive director. Mr Monk has had experience of investment trusts, but, more importantly, this is his only outside directorship so far. SEIT shares rose 1 1/2p to 84 1/2p.

Other Australian brewing conglomerate for Allied-Lyons, are strikingly obvious.

Imps, like Allied, could be regarded as a break up situation. And Mr Bond, like Mr John Elliott, chief executive of Elders, could be interested largely in establishing himself in the British brewing industry.

There is considerable rivalry between Bond and Elders. The Elliott interest in Allied could well have provoked Mr Bond into looking at Imps which many in the City regard as a sitting duck for a bid.

Mr Bond, who is expected to float shares of his Airship Industries on the stock market this year, will establish a new London headquarters at New Wick next month. He, and his London director, Mr Alan

Birchmore, are, with other Bond executives, now attending a "think tank" conference at Hawaii.

It has been known for some time that Mr Bond, who also owns Swan Brewery, another leading Australian brewing operation, wants a presence among the British beerage.

Imps owns the Courage brewing group. It also has tobacco and food interests. For a year it has been negotiating the sale of Howard Johnson, its US catering and hotel group. A statement confirming the disposal is expected shortly.

If it obtained the expected £260 million for Ho-Jo, the Imps cash resources would be about £500 million. With Courage valued at £800 million; the food and tobacco sides at £850 million then Imps, after stripping out debts, has a net worth of about £1,860 million, according to Mr Colin Mitchell of Buckmaster & Moore, the broker. At yesterday's share price it is valued at about £1,460 million.

There has been considerable interest in Imps shares. But it seems the group has not spotted evidence of a Bond share build up. The rumours were also flying around Distillers Co., another leading British group in the takeover limelight. This time the story was that Argill Group, which is contemplating a DCL bid, has sold its 3 per cent shareholding, a hitherto unknown stake.

If Argill has sold the stake, it was not done through the market. There was no sign of any large placing. Side by side with the Argill rumours was the

suggestion that it was the General Electric Co. which had sold its known 3 per cent shareholding in DCL. The spirit group's shares, after dipping to 378p, closed just 1p lower at 385p.

Away from the bid excitement, shares tended to drift aimlessly with the FT 30 share price of 130p to 160p.

Capel, the broker, but the City firm had nothing but to say. "We are sticking with our forecast of almost no change in full year profits", said Capel.

Last week, the same broker was much tougher on Rascal Electronics, but yesterday those shares edged 2p higher against the trend and closed at 138p.

STC held its ground at 88p, as did General Electric Company at 166p. Losers included Digiloma, Memec, Micro Business, Tunstall Telecom Group and Unitech.

Oceonics suffered from the chairman's annual meeting statement. Trading looks bad, and it is a case of hope-deferred on the group's attempts to find a merger partner. On that front, discussions continue. The shares slumped 14p to 63p.

CASE was the only real bright spot among electricals. The shares rose 10p to 137p. Institutional buyers are looking for recovery there, or for a bid. The board of CASE is reckoned to feel vulnerable to a takeover currently. The company's advisers appear to be helping support the price.

Strategic-Vickers, the broker, gave a seminar on anti-trustic drugs, bringing investors up-to-date on products awaiting registration. No big news emerged from the meeting, though the City firm appeared to confirm the already-known timescale for the launch of "Relisen", the Beecham Group product.

The company is expected to begin sales in West Germany in the New Year and in Britain next autumn. Beecham shares were unchanged at 330p.

Certain other pharmaceuticals, however, were not so lucky. The August PSBR figure gave a little help to Government stocks, which achieved gains stretching to £1.

Kode International saw its share price drop heavily after half time profits took a dive. The shares lost 45p to 90p.

Kode appeared as yet another tale of woe on the electricals pitches, and pennies were lost elsewhere in the sector. Plessey slipped another 2p to 136p after a lunchtime meeting with James

But there was little activity elsewhere.

BAT Industries saw 659 trades and Shell 656. Total volume for the day was 8,593 contracts.

Some action returned to the stock exchange index option, and 844 contracts were traded.

Imperial Group was the feature on traded options markets, yesterday, as well as on the main share price lists.

A total of 1,209 contracts were traded as the City's speculative interest was

aroused. The next biggest individual volume came in the dollar/sterling option, where 1,120 contracts changed hands.

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Traded option highlights

FISONS

Worldwide growth continues to produce record results

From the Interim Statement
by Chairman & Chief Executive Mr. J.S. Kerridge

"Strong international performances by all three Divisions produced a record result in the first half of 1985. Profit before tax at £30.1 million was 33% higher than the same period last year. Sales were up 28% at £322 million. Earnings per share at 10.2p were up 16%, continuing the pattern of sustained growth."

"The Board has decided to pay an increased interim dividend of 2.16p per share (1984 - 1.8p per share)."

Salient figures abridged and unaudited	6 months ended 30.6.85	6 months ended 30.6.84	12 months ended 30.12.84
	£m	£m	£m
Sales	322.5	252.8	552.6
Group profit before taxation	30.1	22.6	48.3
Group profit after taxation	22.9	17.4	38.0
Earnings per share (see note)	10.2p	8.8p	18.8p
Dividend	2.16p	1.8p	4.5p

Earnings per share are stated after allowing for the Rights Issue of one share for every five held which was completed in April 1985.
The results for the year ended 31.12.84 are abridged from the full audited Accounts for that year and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

FISONS

Pharmaceuticals • Scientific Equipment • Horticulture

APV HOLDINGS PLC

INTERIM RESULTS

	Half year to 30 June		Year to 31 December
	1985	1984	1984
	£m	£m	£m
Turnover	205	188	412
Profit before taxation	6.5	5.6	8.6
Profit after taxation and minorities	2.9	2.4	3.6
Earnings per ordinary share (basic)	8.9p	7.5p	11.2p
Dividends per ordinary share	4.5p	4.5p	11.25p

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Sir Ronald McIntosh KCB

Turnover was 9 per cent higher in the first half of 1985 than in the same period last year, profit before tax was up by 17 per cent.

Most of the growth in profit came from our overseas operations. The North American companies did well and there were good results from Europe. There was also an improvement in the Asia Pacific region. The performance of our UK companies was mixed but taken as a whole they showed an improvement over the first half of 1984. Our South African operations made a loss, due to adverse market conditions; corrective action is in hand.

The rationalisation programme outlined in our latest annual report is progressing well.

Action to reduce overheads and tighten financial controls is continuing throughout the group; and further measures are being taken to strengthen operating management in a number of important subsidiaries.

Order intake in the first six months of 1985 showed some increase over the corresponding period last year and the action taken to increase efficiency has led to an improvement in margins.

In 1984 profits were lower in the second half than in the first. Your Board do not expect this pattern to be repeated this year and anticipate that profits in the second half will be higher than those in the first half.

APV Market leaders in advanced process plant for the food and beverage industries.

A copy of the full annual report, which is being posted to shareholders on 18 September 1985, is available from the Secretary, APV Holdings PLC, APV House, Station Way, Crawley, West Sussex, BN11 1BZ. Telephone: (0893) 617777.

The half-year figures are unaudited. The results for the year 1984 are an audited version of the full accounts which received an unqualified report by the auditors and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Basis established for improved profitability

Highlights from the joint statement for the year to 31 March 1985 by the chairman, Mr. Jocelyn Hambro MC, and the chief executive, Mr. Neil Clarke, to the shareholders of Charter Consolidated P.L.C.:

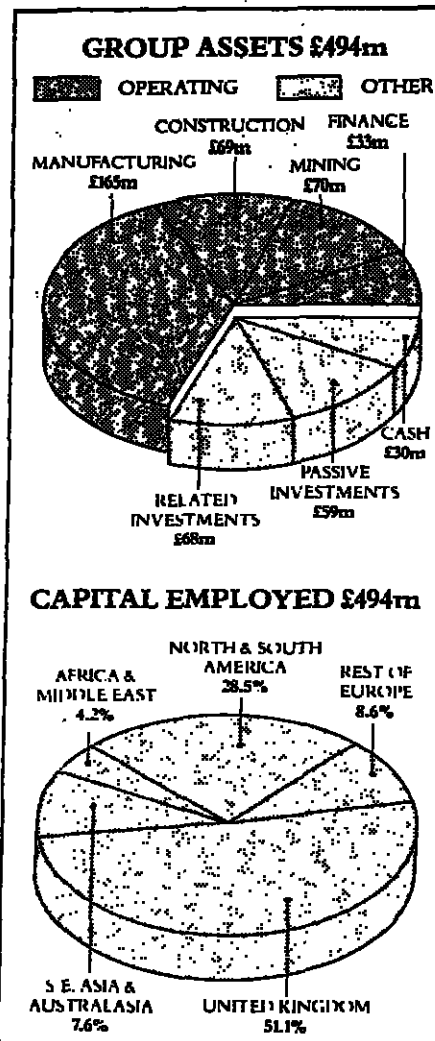
Pre-tax profits were £16.5 million. The final dividend is 7.25p per share, to give an unchanged total dividend of 11p.

Much has been done during the year to improve the profitability of the group. An improvement in operating profits is apparent and we look for this to continue.

Steps have been taken to realize assets and rationalize operations. The effect of selling or closing underperforming businesses will be reflected in the future profitability of the operating companies.

Although the NCB/NUM dispute had an adverse effect on operations, and on the mining equipment companies in particular, orders and deliveries are now reviving.

The financial and management support given to Johnson Matthey after the crisis at Johnson Matthey Bankers has



For a copy of the 1985 Annual Report, please contact, The Company Secretary, Charter Consolidated P.L.C., 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.

CHARTER

WILL YOU BE DROWNED BY THE NEW V.A.T. PENALTIES BEFORE YOU CALL FOR HELP?

Not everyone has realised the full implications of the new VAT rules.

Bluntly, it is probable that if you carry on as you are, your company will automatically become liable for swingeing penalty payments. At present, some 85% of VAT returns are submitted late, and under the new legislation a late return can mean an automatic, immediate penalty of up to 30% of the total.

Think of that as up to 4.5% of turnover (and then think of your present net margin) and you can see that you could be in very deep water indeed. Even punctual returns will be penalised heavily if they are incorrect.

One company was unaware of its VAT liability on the way it charged subsidiaries for central management services. The VAT assessment for six years was an unwelcome £500,000. And under the new rules, the company would be liable to a penalty of £150,000 as well.

Another company rewarded its sales force with generous prizes. The VAT man treated them as business gifts, and required the company to account for output tax on their cost. The assessment was £45,000, and the penalty would be a further £13,500.

Don't imagine that only an unlucky

few will be hit by this tidal wave of penalties. HM Customs & Excise have made it quite clear that increased vigilance will lead to widespread use of the powers, and that they will interpret the defence of "a reasonable excuse" very narrowly indeed.

Mercifully, a lifeline, so to speak, is at hand—in the form of the specialist VAT planning and advisory group at Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Our services, which include a complete review of your existing procedures to help ensure full and continuing compliance, offer a highly cost-effective solution. Provided that you call us in early enough, proper planning can help you avoid the assessments as well as the penalties.

At the end of September, we shall produce a special booklet entitled "VAT Survival" for our clients. If you too would like a copy, fill in the coupon below.

You can also use it to request a consultation with one of our specialists, or details of our forthcoming VAT seminars.

Complete it right now—unless, of course, you're quite positive that you're not sailing too close to the wind.

To: Ian Somerville, Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4P 4JX. Telephone: 01-248 3913.

- ☐ Please send me a copy of your publication "VAT Survival".
☐ Please arrange a consultation to discuss my company's needs.
☐ Please send me details of your half-day seminars in London on 4th and 5th November 1985.

Name _____ Position _____
 Company _____ Tel _____
 Address _____ Postcode _____

Deloitte Haskins + Sells
PROFIT FROM OUR SKILLS

Lower prices for rich nations bring disaster to Third World

Every schoolchild knows what has happened to commodity prices over the past few years—especially if their school happens to be beneath a tree in one of the world's poorer countries.

The collapse of nearly all raw material prices across the board since their peak in 1980 has cost developing countries many billions of dollars in lost export revenues at the time they could least afford the shortfall.

As a result, debt servicing has been that much more difficult. Imports and investment have been compressed and governments have sought to find the savings necessary to meet foreign obligations by driving down real wages.

While cheap commodities have helped to dampen inflation and even raise living standards in rich countries, the effect on developing countries' raw material exporters has been the reverse.

So what? A familiar, whingeing refrain. I hear some of the City's less socially aware elements muttering derisively. Away with moaning minnies. It all goes to show you cannot beat the magic of the market.

Well, I'm not so sure. Discussion of commodity prices tends to polarize between the

free trade school (invariably, to my knowledge, housed more salubriously than under a tree) and what for brevity's sake we might call the Unctad academy for commodity pacts.

But the recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's *Trade and Development Report, 1985* suggests a third approach. Direct regulation may be elusive to the point of impossibility. Certainly, Unctad's own integrated programme for commodities has flopped.

Changes, however, in developed country macro-economic policy can significantly influence commodity prices. The beauty of this approach is that it does not try to substitute for the market (whatever that may be). The background is that dollar prices of all commodities except oil, on an index where the fourth quarter of 1982 is 100, have fallen from 142 in the final three months of 1980 to 103 in the first quarter of last year, before the rot set in again.

Now dollar prices may be held to be unrepresentative because the devaluation of commodity exporters' currencies against the dollar has increased their revenues in local currency terms. Moreover, the fall is less vivid if measured in

influential in aggregate than supply and demand forces. Indeed, what has often been regarded as wilful overproduction—for example, most spectacularly, of sugar—could, in fact, be argued to have been caused by monetary pressures.

The depreciation of local currencies against the dollar raised local prices and stimulated production. Similarly, the slowdown of real interest rates has reduced the speculation rampant in the 1970s. That depressed demand, and may weaken the normal cyclical upswings.

If the conclusions of last week's Treasury Select Committee report on international monetary arrangements are a guide, high interest rates and a strong dollar are the direct consequence of America's policy. The US government could, therefore, help to raise commodity prices without joining any of the pacts it so dislikes.

But it may be too late. Industrial demand is weakening again and could supplant the monetary factors as the chief influence. And every schoolchild knows that no good can come of that.

Michael Prest

COMPANY NEWS

KODE INTERNATIONAL: An interim dividend of 1.75p (3.5p) is being paid for the six months to June 30, 1985. With figures in £000, turnover was 14,778 (6,690). Pretax profit was 101 (482). Earnings per share dropped to 1.1p (5p).

PROMOTIONS HOUSE: For the first half of this year, with figures in £000, turnover was 5,587.5 (6,489.4). The pretax profit was 231.4 (138.7). Earnings per share rose to 0.54p (0.25p).

STEAUA ROMANA: For the six months to June 30, with figures in £000, total revenue climbed to 1,807 (1,409). The pretax loss was 55 (profit, 86). There was a loss per share of 0.3p (earnings, 0.9p).

ORIFLAME INTERNATIONAL: For the first half of this year, an interim of 9.5p (8.6p) is being paid. With figures in £000, sales rose to 15,295 (13,262). The pretax profit was 2,526 (2,120). Earnings per share climbed to 21.4p (16.7p).

PROCESS SYSTEMS: A dividend of 0.25 cents is being paid for the year to June 30. With figures in \$000, total revenue was 14,950 (about £11.24 million), against \$3,349. Pretax income was 5,459 (2,623). Earnings per share were \$0.0572 (\$0.0381).

HALL ENGINEERING: An interim dividend of 3.66p (3.41p) is being announced for the six months to June 30. On the assumption that results during the second half show the expected increase over those of the first half, the directors will increase the total dividend. With figures in £000, turnover was 63,250 (60,963). Operating profit was 2,000 (1,451) and pretax profit was 1,887 (1,324). Earnings per share were 8.9p (5.00p).

MELLERWARE INTERNATIONAL: For the half-year to June 30, an interim payment of 1p is declared. With figures in £000, turnover slipped to 3,831 (4,354). Pretax profit fell to 10 (612). Earnings per share were 0.001p (6.2p).

ERSKINE HOUSE: The company has completed the acquisition of Remdex-Bradley Reprographics, which sells and maintains copiers and facsimile equipment. The maximum consideration, of which £300,000 was paid in cash, of which £300,000 was paid on completion.

MUNTON BROTHERS: The board reports that substantial losses arose in the first half of the current year and there has been a significant carry-over into the second half of the effects of the situation which caused these losses. In addition, trading in the second half was less successful than expected. The board expects a loss for the second half.

J.S.D. COMPUTER GROUP: An interim dividend of 1p (0.2p) is being paid for the first half of 1985, with figures in £000, turnover was 4,724 (2,960). Profit, before tax, was 302 (132). Earnings per share more than doubled to 3.2p (1.5p).

BRINTON ESTATE: An interim dividend of 2.3p, a 9.5 per cent rise, is being paid. For the first half of 1985 with figures in £000, net rental income was 9,133 (8,178). Pretax profit was 4,625 (4,427).

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing
Abdus-Salam, Houses 5p Ord (67s)	81.75
Anglo United Dev (34)	37.4
Bradford Group 5p Ord (170)	201
British 10p Ord (185) £1 paid	123
C & G Galleries 10p Ord (185)	87
Canon Street Inv 20p Ord (8)	58.2
Control Hedges 25p Ord (70)	73.1
Continental Trust 5p Ord (115)	130.4
Dean Park 10p 25p Ord (51s)	50.1
F & B Group 5p Ord (140s)	178
Island 10p 15p Ord (115)	177
Kewitt Systems 5p Ord (79s)	87
Lewer 25p Ord (110s)	116.1
Luxor Petroleum 5p Ord (105s)	96
Michael J Design 2.5p Ord (44s)	65.1
Moss Advertising 5p Ord (105s)	98
Nat'l Int'l Trust 10p Ord (50)	47.6
Quacard 10p Ord (180s)	181
Sapphire Petroleum 50p Ord (150s)	88
Tillam 10p Ord (72s)	90
Yellowhammer 5p Ord (110s)	130

Right issues:
 Epsom Lighting (210) NB Pd 45 pence-3
 Heston Ltd (185) NB Pd 120-2
 issue price is parities, a Unlisted Securities
 by tender

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11 1/2%
Adam & Company	11 1/2%
Barclays	11 1/2%
BCCI	11 1/2%
Citibank Savings	11 1/2%
Consolidated Credit	11 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Clyde Bank	11 1/2%
Midland Bank	11 1/2%
Nat'l Westminster	11 1/2%
Paragon	11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

* Mortgage Base Rate.

COATS PATONS PLC

Interim Results

Earnings of £22.6m (1984: £24.6m) are down due to difficult trading conditions in USA and Australia.

Cash flow is sound after providing for a continuing high level of investment.

Interim dividend will be 1.90p which is an increase of 15% over last year.

Unaudited results for January/June, 1985, and the comparative figures for 1984 are as follows:

	Jan./June 1985	Jan./June 1984	Year 1984
TURNOVER			
Trading profit before charging depreciation	466.7	447.7	1,076.0
Depreciation	52.9	447.7	1,430.0
	10.5	10.2	21.2
TRADING PROFIT			
Investment and other income	42.4	47.1	121.8
Interest payable (net)	3.6	3.2	7.6
	(7.8)	(7.1)	(19.6)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION			
Taxation	38.2	43.2	109.8
	12.7	15.1	35.3
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation			
Interest of minority shareholders	25.5	28.1	74.5
	3.9	3.5	9.8
EARNINGS FOR ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS			
Dividends	22.6	24.6	64.7
	5.2	4.6	15.2
PROFIT RETAINED			
	17.4	20.0	49.5
Earnings per ordinary share of 25p			
Rate of exchange used:	8.2p	8.9p	23.4p
US Dollars per £	1.35	1.35	1.16
Australian Dollars per £	2.00	1.55	1.40

The results shown above for the year 1984 are an abridged version of the Group's full accounts which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and on which the auditors gave an unqualified report.

Turnover increased by 4% over the first half of 1984. At constant exchange rates the increases would have been 8%. Volume was maintained or exceeded in all areas excepting the United States, Australia and Brazil where weaker than expected trading conditions prevailed. Jaeger, Country Casuals and the West Riding Group performed particularly well.

Trading profit at £42.4m fell by 9% against the comparable figures for 1984. Profit before taxation of £38.2m compares with £43.2m in the first half of 1984, reflecting a fall of 12%. Exchange translation accounts for 6 percentage points of the reduction leaving 6% due to the deterioration in trading conditions. USA and Australia were particularly difficult areas and both markets fell well below last year's performance and also our earlier expectations. Together with Brazil which showed a slight decrease, these markets more than account for the total shortfall in profits. Remaining operations exceeded last year's level of profitability on a Sterling basis.

Taxation at 33% of profit before taxation is the rate expected for the year (1984: 32%).

Minority shareholders' interest at £2.9m was down due to results in Australia.

Resultant earnings per share were 8.2p as against 8.9p in January/June, 1984.

The outcome for the year will depend greatly on the rates of exchange at the year end and these are especially difficult to forecast against the present background of unsettled world economic conditions. Generally speaking our businesses, excepting Australia and USA, have performed well and the outlook is encouraging. Australia should show some improvement but there is little sign of a pick-up in the United States where textile imports are still increasing.

A strong cash flow performance for the year is expected resulting from close control of working capital and disposal of surplus fixed assets. This should mean an improvement in year-end gearing which was 31% at 31st December, 1984. In view of this, an interim dividend of 1.9p per share (1984: 1.65p) will be paid to ordinary shareholders on the register on 29th November, 1985.

This announcement of Coats Patons PLC results for the half-year ended 30th June, 1985, will be published in a number of national newspapers on 18th September but will not otherwise be communicated to shareholders.

September 18, 1985

THE TIMES

SPECIAL REPORT

HEALTH AT WORK/1

A nation fit enough to take on the world

The great success of the Clean Air Act, and the many health benefits it brought, are taken for granted by a generation which has never experienced the death-dealing pea-souper fogs that used to enshroud our major cities.

Today the focus has narrowed from environmental pollution of the atmosphere to the health hazards of the workplace. For the workplace is a microcosm of the environment, says Dr Geoffrey Brown, secretary of the Society of Occupational Medicine, which commemorates its golden jubilee this year.

The factories and offices, the farmlands and oil rigs and shops, the hospitals and public utilities, the schools and print rooms and lorries and laboratories — where millions spend most of their waking hours — are no less in need of being free from hazard to health than the air we breathe.

The importance of health at work, established in legislation by the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, and by thousands of regulations since, was acknowledged by the Prime Minister earlier this year.

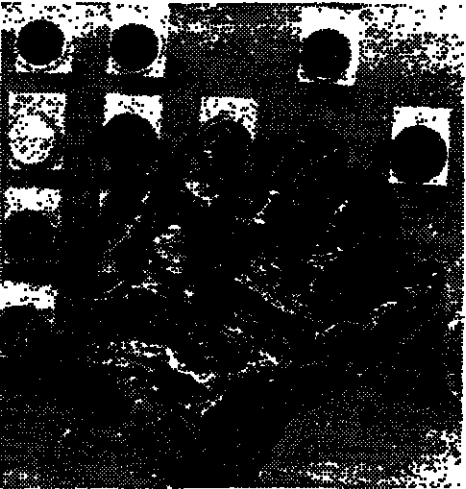
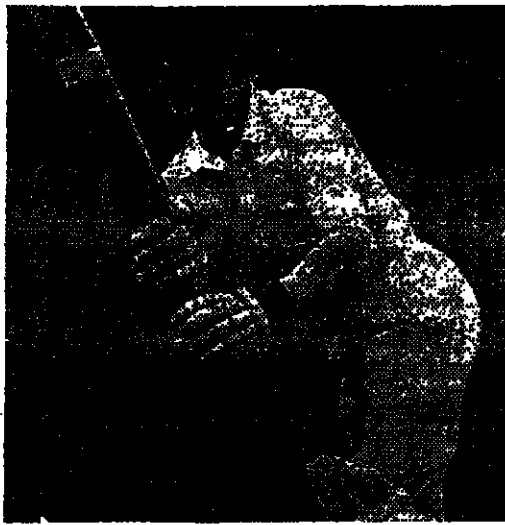
Mrs Thatcher was visiting the occupational and hygiene laboratories of the Health and Safety Executive, the large but impressively energetic and expert quango which is the Government's watchdog on health at work. Commenting on their "meticulous" research, she emphasized that for British industry to remain at the top level, it must not only be efficient, it must also be safe.

The need for controls has been recognized since the earliest days of the industrial revolution.

In 1775, Percival Pott pointed to the high incidence of scrotal cancer among chimney sweeps. The Factory Inspectorate began its work more than 150 years ago, in the same year, 1832, as the Great Reform Act. Later legislation effectively established the world's first national industrial medical service.

Towards the end of the 19th century, an industrial disease notification scheme was begun and in 1898 Thomas Morrison Legge became the first medical inspector of factories.

Illness, and death among



Health and safety at work and play: Protecting the parts that industrial hazards can reach

munition workers in the First World War made the nation aware that both for humanitarian reasons and to preserve human resources, medical services at the workplace were essential. Even during the inter-war slump, many businesses set up health facilities.

More recently, bodies such as Nuclear and Agriculture Inspectorates have done much to maintain and improve health standards among workers in those vital industries. Contrary to widespread belief, incidentally, farming is much more hazardous to health, through noise, dust, pesticides, machinery and animals, than atomic power.

For the past 50 years, the now 2,000-strong Society of Occupational Medicine has greatly

advanced the cause of health at work, through scientific meetings, education and training, consultations on new measures and in forming a faculty in occupational medicine within the Royal College of Physicians. It has, says Dr Tim Carter, its official historian and director of medical services for the Health and Safety Executive, an "evangelical" role. That has not always made it friends.

Its prime work has been to encourage and respond to government initiatives, its members trying to tread the path between state intervention and voluntary action. Unfortunately, doctors in industry have tended, unjustly, to be identified with the employers' sectional interests, and their integrity has been questioned.

But with both employers and trade unions lukewarm at first about occupational health, many services might well not have come into existence when they did but for the Society's proselytizing.

As Dr Carter points out, Britain differs from most European countries in not imposing statutory obligations

Britain relies on voluntary action

upon employers to seek occupational health guidance, but relies on voluntary action. The government's involvement is chiefly regulatory and supervisory.

Nor, of course, does it provide a treatment service.

The National Health Service, which does, is not specifically concerned with health at work. The Robens Committee in 1973 thought occupational health services might wastefully duplicate the NHS.

It was against this background that the House of Lords select committee on science and technology last year, while calling for a major expansion of occupational health services to cover millions in smaller companies, favoured voluntary codes of practice for employers to follow rather than compulsion.

The conflict between the advisory and enforcement roles of government agencies is not easy to resolve, Dr Tim Carter believes that employers and trade unions sometimes want

occupational health advice to bolster some essentially political position rather than to solve a health problem or help remove a hazard.

As a result, the field services of the Employment Advisory Medical Service of the Health and Safety Executive act more as arbitrators than advisers. Scared about the supposed dangers of visual display units, alarmist talk about asbestos *in situ*, needless fears about occupationally related cancers, distract the service from the real problems.

That is not to say, of course, that asbestos is not dangerous or that some of the 30,000 or so hazardous substances in industry are not carcinogenic. But the real challenge is different. Though facilities in many

major companies are first-rate — concerns like Esso, Shell, Marks & Spencer, Rank Hovis McDougall and Kodak are among the most notable — such companies form a mere 20 per cent minority.

For the majority, however, mostly medium and small companies, to provide such services requires venture capital which they do not have or do not want to provide.

This means that the 60 doctors and 30 nurses of Dr Carter's medical advisory service act as troubleshooters and crisis managers with health problems that need never have occurred. Meanwhile, important new problems — and new technology means these constantly arise — are not being adequately researched.

Ensuring health at work has a further difficult dimension. Safety at work is one thing — it is easy enough to identify dangerous equipment or the need to reduce noise (about a million workers have noise-related hearing defects, often severe and distressing). But it may not be so easy to do something about it.

If work causes you to lose an arm, the issues are clear. But what if it causes you to lose your reason? How to pin responsibility for the "sick building syndrome", the vague but disturbing malaise which afflicts so many who work in modern buildings? How even to know for sure when it is or is not manifest?

However, Dr John Cullen, the former industrialist who heads the Health and Safety Commission, which advises the Government and develops the policies which the executive puts into practice, points out that the British system is being used as a model by other countries.

The way it involves both sides of industry in forming its policies and executing regulations in detail certainly ensures that measures are workable and realistic. "We don't tell people how to run their show", Dr Cullen says. "We are not seeking to be over-protective."

But a decade ago, health at work was peripheral. Today, it is part and parcel of management. It is considered at the highest level in companies.

David Loshak

INSIDE

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- Doctors or managers Page 23
- Hazards for women Page 24
- A field officer's day Page 24
- Keeping the troops fighting fit Page 25
- The cost to taxpayers Page 25

The back is front of the sick list

When occupational health doctors warn about "watching your back" they are not alluding to metaphorical jealous knives, but precisely what they say. More injuries are sustained in the back than all the other parts of the body. An analysis of injuries caused by "over-exertion" has shown that while 19 per cent were inflicted on the upper limb; 9 per cent on the trunk; 8 per cent on the lower limb; and 3 per cent on other parts; more than 60 per cent were sustained by the back.

The main causes of back injuries were lifting, carrying, welding or throwing (74 per cent) and 15 per cent due to pushing and pulling.

In manufacturing the worst affected are workers in coke ovens and manufactured fuel, bricks, fireclay and refractory goods and brewing and malting, all which have shown that back injuries represented more than 20 per cent of all injuries.

Back trouble is a common complaint to a lesser or greater extent throughout occupational health and there are extensive programmes of education in handling techniques. But what about eyes, especially with the dramatic rise in the use of visual display units?

As one leading occupational health doctor said: "For the VDU operator, it can be a pain in the neck, for us in occupational health it can be a pain in the backside."

Operating VDUs has been the cause of alarmist specu-

Continued on page 22



Prevention is better than cure.

An old adage regarded as scripture throughout

British Telecom's Occupational Health Service.

And with that thought in mind we've conducted many research projects in association with universities and professional bodies.

For example, in collaboration with the Institute of Ophthalmology, a four year controlled eyesight trial demonstrated conclusively that the extended use of data terminals had no adverse effects.

These and similar evaluation programmes help us to make our 235,000 strong workforce healthier, better equipped and hence more productive. This aim is aided by the effort of our seventeen full time doctors and our fifty-six occupational health nurses; for them too the emphasis is on prevention. Most of our time is spent offering advice and health education on just about

everything from psychological problems to screening for cancer.

Another concern of our Occupational Health Service is environmental investigation, monitoring subjects as diverse as photo-copier fumes and the traffic noise levels encountered by men working on underground cable projects.

Almost everything our people come into contact with at work is put through stringent safety tests. Be it a common lavatory cleanser or a sophisticated piece of new technology. At least three products are evaluated by our technicians every week.

Yet there are health problems which no one can prevent and when one of our employees falls prey to such a disablement they are reassured by the knowledge that British Telecom will do everything feasible to rehabilitate them into a normal working life.

British
TELECOM
Occupational Health Service

British Telecom Occupational Health Service, Williams National House, 11-13 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2AT.

HEALTH AT
WORK/2

(SPECIAL REPORT)

Mystery disease here to stay

Stress is estimated to cause more days lost from work than the common cold and influenza combined and is certainly a more potent source of ill health at work than accidents. And days lost through mental illness — neurosis, psychosis, nervousness, debility and recurrent headaches — steadily increase over the years, exceeding the number lost through strikes, even the miners' strike.

Stress also shows in such complaints as dyspepsia, dermatitis and muscular aches and pains. Such conditions can have causes other than stress and more often than not the cause cannot be determined. But stress is now acknowledged as a frequent source of such complaints.

A study funded by the Health and Safety Executive and carried out by the Department of Experimental Psychology at Oxford has established that the work environment does have "a causal effect" on mental health, causing work stress. But the problem, despite its size, persistently remains on the back-burner.

In its report on occupational health and hygiene services, the House of Lords select committee on science and technology last year did not mention the subject at all.

More than a decade ago, a survey carried out by the medical centre of the Institute of Directors concluded that "poor organization within



Smoking: A major factor in respiratory illness, yet to many workers, an outlet for stress

companies is a major cause of stress". The Office of Health Economics said in 1972 that "one of the keys to the minimization of sickness absence, particularly of short-term absence, is in the hands of management".

Those observations are as valid today as they were then. But one has only to consider the woolly, if well-intentioned, recommendations made by bodies such as Mind — the National Association for Mental Health — to see how hard it is for management to do anything practical, let alone for the Health and Safety Executive to tackle the problem to any great effect.

The association believes that companies should provide work "suitable to the individual's capacities" for mental health to be maintained. Job satisfaction is the key, it says — staff "should be stretched to the full but no more" and should have opportunities for achievement, recognition of that achievement, interesting and challenging work, genuine responsibility and scope for advancement.

Nor do trade unions think to take mental health as seriously as the scale of occupational stress would seem to warrant. The issue does not figure in the TUC's 176-page handbook on health at work.

In a paper entitled *The*

Manager, Stress and Psychosomatic Disease, C. K. Davison, an environmental health officer with the London borough of Lewisham, says it is "crucial" to take steps that identify stress at work. He calls for more research in personality, performance and stress.

He commends the idea of "stress audits" at work, saying: "Attention to the work climate and structure, reduction of conflict, career development, organizational development, are all subject areas which, when properly dealt with, can result in a reduction of stress".

Though such approaches are part of what modern managers are taught in theory, the fuzziness of these concepts and the language in which they are couched indicates that, in practice, stress at work is liable to remain an ineradicable part of work.

Companies often specify an "ability to work under pressure". Mr Davison warns that there are pitfalls in selecting personality traits, such as ability to work under stress, in isolation. To do so would probably prove self-defeating.

Far more important is educating workers on the factors which can directly influence the health of their hearts — notably, diet, fitness and way of life, and above all smoking, which causes 100,000 deaths a year, many from heart disease as well as cancer.

DL

Backs still front of the sick list

Continued from previous page
lotion about radiation emissions, cataracts, and photosensitive epilepsy. But it is speculation that has not stood up to medical evidence.

A company medical officer recalled that one of his clerical staff complained that working with a VDU made it impossible for her to wear her contact lenses — they kept dropping out. On examination the cause was found to be that the office needed a humidifier.

Most large companies now offer regular eyesight tests. At Esso, for example, a comprehensive eye test is offered to all potential users who expect to spend, on average, more than 25 per cent of their time on visual display units.

But the operation of VDUs is a minor potential occupational hazard in the oil industry — not on the same scale, at least, as safeguarding the welfare of

workers in refineries who could meet toxic hazards, or overseeing the occupational health of a man on an oil rig.

The petroleum industry has long been active in assessing the health hazards that may arise in the processing of oil. Much of the earliest attention has been concerned with the potential carcinogenicity of certain oil fractions and the formulation of refining treatments and hygiene safeguards.

In 1980 an epidemiological survey was carried out in eight oil refineries. The study comprised a successful retrospective mortality follow-up by standardized mortality comparison with age and sex equivalent national population data over a 25-year period.

The results showed that mortality for all causes of death was markedly lower than that of the comparison population and that there was a similar lowered mortality for all cancers.

When an offshore worker climbs into a helicopter to fly him out to an oil platform or vessel, he is not only exposing himself to demanding conditions in an often hostile environment — he is flying out of the care of the National Health Service.

For the responsibility of the NHS does not extend beyond the low water mark around the shores of Britain. The primary and occupational health becomes the responsibility of the United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association.

The so-called Offshore Medical Support of the association gives each man a medical check before he joins a company, with a follow-up medical every three years for those under 40 years of age, every two years between 40 and 50 years, and annually for men over 50.

But as Dr Alex Grieve, chief medical officer of Shell (UK)

Esso, said: "The money offered often militates to some extent against an employee making an honest declaration that he suffers from some ailment which he feels might render him ineligible to work offshore." The most difficult ailment to detect is the peptic ulcer.

The physical hazards of working and living in what is essentially a densely populated environment, there are specific hazards that have to be constantly guarded against — agents used in drilling muds and for pipeline inhibitors maybe toxic; the atmosphere could contain hydrogen sulphide or other toxic gases.

Divers, of course, have their additional environmental hazards. Their fitness standards are strict and the 1981 Health and Safety Executive guideline notes are being updated.

MH

Marks & Spencer
wish the Society of
Occupational Medicine
Congratulations
on their
Golden Jubilee

Congratulations
to the Society of
Occupational Medicine
on its
Golden Jubilee.

Esso strongly supports the principles and practice of occupational health care.

This extends beyond Esso employees to include contractors and members of the public associated with our operations and products.

We share the aims of the Society and take particular pleasure in wishing it every success in its future work.



A member of the Exxon group.



"BREATHE SHALLOW, AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT."

Back in the old days, that was the advice the experienced hands gave new men on the steel industry's coke ovens. Up there, where the coal is carbonized into hard, metallurgical coke — essential fodder for the blastfurnaces which release the iron from its ore — the brimstone breath of the ovens made it good advice.

A safety helmet which would act as a "hard hat," protect the eyes, and provide the wearer with clean, filtered air, was the answer. Small snag: no such helmet existed. Then the spread of miniaturisation raised the prospect of headgear sufficiently lightweight to do the job without giving the wearer a raging headache within five minutes.

With the Health and Safety Executive, we worked on the problem, then together with a manufacturer to produce a prototype.

We worked with him for over a year, advising and suggesting, while the original design was refined and developed to the steel industry's needs. Result — a helmet with its own power pack which does all three jobs and now allows the lads on the coke oven batteries and in the foundries to breathe more easily.

Now this significant advance in occupational health care has spread. Similar helmets are being worn in a range of other industries, including agriculture and coal. For thousands of employees, work has become pleasanter — and safer.

Several thousand British Steel employees now enjoy the benefits of the improved helmet. At more than £100 a time, it isn't cheap. But the health and safety of our employees is one of our continuing preoccupations.

Life on the coke ovens will never be the same again. We are glad to say.

BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION



SPECIAL REPORT

HEALTH AT WORK/



Keeping fit on the job at Ford's Dagenham plant and, far right, at British Airways' medical centre: testing whether the eyes still have it; an air-sampling pump; blowing into a Vitalograph to measure respiratory functions, and inoculation

Every employer must regard health as an integral part of management, says Dr Tim Carter, director of medical services for the Health and Safety Executive. "One of the dangers," he adds, "has been that it is so easy for companies to say that they know about safety and can deal with it, but health is for doctors."

"In fact, the control of health problems at work is very much for the manager, with advisory support."

There is a far greater conviction now in industry and commerce that the work of medical teams familiar with the special problems of the workforce contribute to business efficiency. But there is another view.

Dr Adrian Semmence, of the Civil Service Medical Advisory Service, points out that four in 10 British employees have no access to occupational medicine teams. But does their health suffer, he asks, and if so, by how much? How should any provision of teams be financed? What is the minimum service that any advanced country should reasonably provide for the rising number of those who work part-time, at home and in small businesses?

The answer to all these questions, he says, is that no one knows.

Compare Britain with Denmark and France, for example. The French have many more occupational physicians per head than we do, the Danes a lot fewer. Comments Dr Semmence: "No one has yet demonstrated any differences in the health at work of workers in the countries concerned that can be laid at the door of occupational health services."

He sees dangers in the provision of occupational medical teams. One is that they will be used to treat minor illness or to carry out increasingly com-

plex tests which merely reassure senior staff about their health. "Another danger is that they will be employed in diffuse and unvalidated health education," he says, "particularly on the deleterious effects of stress."

In Dr Semmence's opinion, based on large-scale Civil Service screening studies which showed the harmful effects of cigarettes, alcohol, bad diet and lack of exercise, individual behaviour is much more likely to be influenced by a good personal



Dr Carter: Health problems at work are a management matter

doctor than by "the intervention of occupational health and academic physicians". Nevertheless, no one denies the value of preventive medicine, either at work or anywhere else. A growing number of companies has taken steps to discourage smoking. At Esso's London headquarters, for example, there are anti-cigarette signs and notices everywhere.

Campaigns against excessive use of alcohol are even more important because drink can not only be harmful to health, but is a potent source of

accidents. The Government estimates that alcohol misuse costs more than £1,000 million a year in lost production. Problem drinkers, who are at work, not home, most of the time, have at least three times more accidents than other workers and are absent from work five times more than the average.

According to one study, as each problem drinker on the payroll costs an employer at least a quarter of annual salary, growing numbers of companies have begun to use schemes such as the industrial resources training programme of Accept (Alcoholism Community Centres for Education, Prevention and Treatment).

This is an independent national charity which last year joined forces with the AMI hospital group to design and to open new centres for treating not only alcohol misuse but over-use of tranquillizers and sleeping pills. The first of these Oakhurst centres opened in London this summer.

There are many other areas in which industry can and does prevent damage to the health of its workers, although much remains to be done. The Health and Safety Executive encourages companies to display its posters on safe work systems, which can help to prevent back strain and hernias, for example, with easy-to-follow illustrated instructions on lifting and carrying.

Because of a European directive, about three million British workers will have to be tested for deafness. This will apply to those subjected to noise levels of more than 85

decibels, which is considerably lower than the 105-decibel level laid down by the executive's code of practice.

That requirement exposes still further some of the difficulties associated with such preventive measures. Setting up an audiometry facility can cost a company about £4,000.

Moreover, protective measures are not as easy to take as they might seem. Three boilermakers in the North-East who suffered severe industrial deafness received relatively low compensation because of their contributory negligence - not wearing the hearing protection the employer had supplied. Workers often do not use such

'We want employers to assess the risk of particular substances ... to develop systems of working with them which will be reasonably safe'

gear because it is uncomfortable or interferes with their work, or perhaps causes skin irritation.

But perhaps the most problematical and contentious aspect of preventing ill health at work now stems from another European directive on the control of substances hazardous to health. The proposed COSHH regulations, and occupational exposure limits that complement them, will apply to more than 40,000 substances and will, among other things, require employers to keep health records of all exposed employees for at least 50 years from the date of the last entry.

The background to this is that in 1979-80, the Health Department awarded more than 5,700 new injury benefits for short spells of incapacity, 850 longer-term benefits and 710 death benefits. These were for diseases that could be attributed to exposure at work to substances other than lead and asbestos, which were dealt with separately.

In 1980 there were more than 20,000 deaths from chronic bronchitis, asthma and emphysema, many of which were linked to jobs. And it is estimated authoritatively, by Doll and Peto at Oxford, that up to 10,000 cancer deaths a year could be prevented if occupational hazards were removed.

The Health and Safety Commission's consultative document on the COSHH regulations, which has prompted 500 submissions, describes the primary aim as protecting the health of people at work and to ensure that others who might be affected by hazardous substances used in work are not exposed to health risks. "So far as is reasonably practicable".

But an editorial in the *Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine* questions what "reasonable" is in this context.

Among factors that have prompted the proposed measures, it says, are greater public awareness of industrial health hazards, pressure groups which exploit undue anxieties, the advance of toxicology, which makes it possible to detect and to analyse the smallest quantities of toxic substances and, by contrast,

lack of understanding of how mutagenic, teratogenic and carcinogenic effects occur, so that standards of control are based often on "mere guesswork".

The editorial says this may lead "to a distortion of standards or the imposition of controls requiring the deployment of disproportionate resources in all too commonly futile attempts to provide reassurance and to reduce anxiety for which no adequate scientific justification can be found."

"Confronted by this relentless and often fruitless search

for reassurance, is it reasonable to continue to pursue a policy of attempting to allay fears that are inherently unreasonable? Increasingly sophisticated methods of detection would reveal that we are all living in an environment of suspect or known carcinogens at the molecular level."

Though not dismissive of such misgivings, Dr John Cullen, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, believes the COSHH scheme marks an important step forward in the whole area of occupational hygiene. He does not believe that the regulations

will, in practice, place an undue burden on industry.

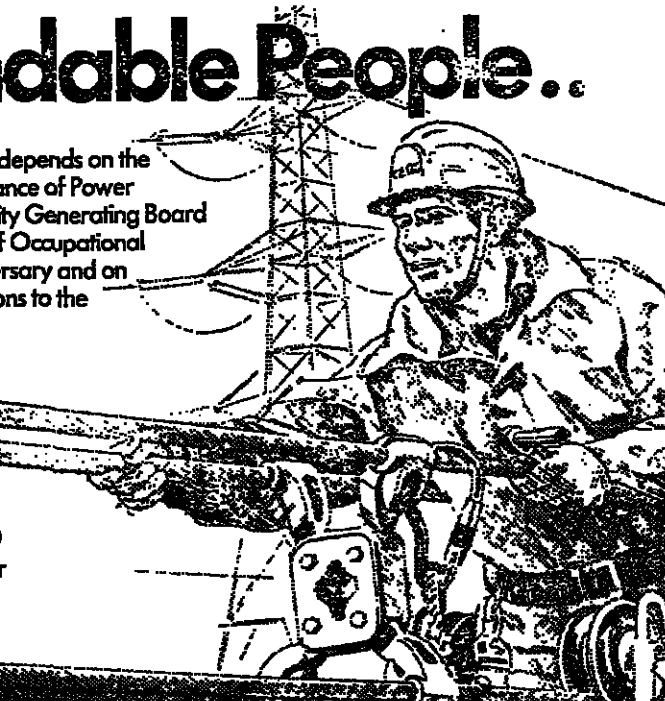
Dr Cullen says: "We want employers to assess the risks of particular substances, to assess the exposure, to develop systems of working with those substances which will be reasonably safe and then to monitor them. In the electronic age, the record-keeping for this is not difficult."

Prevention, then, will seek to be practicable. The easy "solution" with every potential hazard is to ban it but the COSHH system offers a sensible alternative. "If you know it is nasty", Dr Cullen says, "you can handle it. You do not have to ban it."

DI

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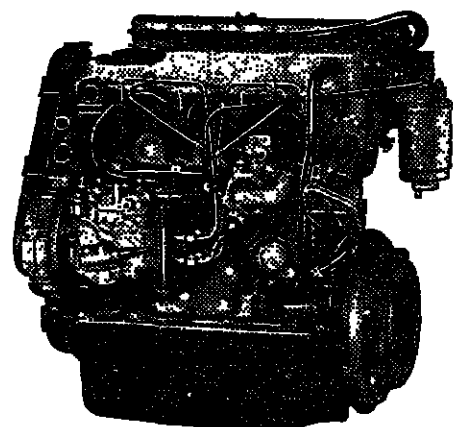
But what really makes the machines popular is the improvement that they have brought to the quality of life on the lines. Since the machines now do most of the dirtiest and most repetitive jobs they make building reliable engines that much easier.

The result is that the diesels we build in Dagenham are, in our opinion, the best diesel car engines in the world.

The other good news for Britain is that 50% of our diesels, worth around £1 million a week, are exported to Germany where

diesel engines were invented. That's a source of considerable satisfaction to the men. And, no doubt, the machines.

*Govt. fuel economy figures - mpg (litres/100 km). Escort 1.6 diesel saloon: constant 56 mpg (90 km/h) 70.6 (4.0), constant 75 mpg (120 km/h) 48.7 (5.8), urban cycle 51.4 (5.5).



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Hidden hazards putting women in danger

For millions of women, work can be salubrious. Untying them from the domestic treadmill, it can give a sense of identity, wider relationships and a degree of financial independence. All have beneficial effects, protecting many young mothers, in particular, from the depressions of the isolated housewife.

But for women in industry, and other kinds of work, there are health hazards, not only for themselves but, if they are pregnant, to the unborn child. Ironically enough, nurses are among those at greatest risk.

The threats to the foetus among women at work have been known since the last century. Women working in the pottery and white-lead industries had reproductive problems, which led to the first protective legislation.

Work with chemicals, of which there are tens of thousands in industry, hospitals, laboratories and even offices, can cause infertility, abortion, menstrual disorders, still births, premature births, malformations and other serious or distressing conditions.

Thirty years ago, a study in the *British Journal of Preventive and Social Medicine* reported that among women who combined housework with paid employment there was an increased risk of foetal damage. It was once thought that the placenta filtered out harmful agents; in fact, it lets many through.

In hospitals, clinics and dental surgeries, for example, the use of anaesthetics can affect the outcome of a pregnancy. Indeed, studies indicate that even the wives of anaesthetists can be seriously affected, with pregnancies spontaneously aborting or with death soon after birth. A 1972 University of

Glasgow survey among women anaesthetists showed that twice as many were unable to conceive as other women doctors. Those who worked during pregnancy had more miscarriages and more of their babies had congenital defects. There are dangers, too, from X-rays, antibiotics, detergents, disinfectants and sterilizing fluids which are used in hospitals and clinics.

Airline stewardesses are among other women workers whose health can be at risk. Many experience menstrual problems when they fly.

The Health and Safety Executive lists industrial compounds according to safe exposure limits because many of these can not only cause birth deformities if ingested to excess but can affect such aspects as breast-feeding. The hormonal effects of innumerable substances with which women workers have contact are still not fully recognized.

Studies in Finland have shown, for example, that women working in the plastic, electronics and pharmaceutical industries have increased rates of miscarriage, but it is not known why. Yet these, a far cry from the mines and factories which posed such great dangers in the past, are modern, clean and supposedly safe industries.

Where the hazards are known, of course, great care is taken to ensure that pregnant women are not exposed to them at all. Both by official regulation and as a matter of company policy, much is done to protect the foetus and the mother.

But though maternity leave ensures that mothers-to-be have plenty of time away from work during pregnancy, the long-term effects of working, possibly for years before a pregnancy, are

The difference to health that two world wars made



There were few health checks for workers in the First World War, such as those who worked in the crowded tailor's shop in the Royal Arsenal Woolwich in 1918. But by the Second World War health care included mass x-rays in the battle against tuberculosis - as this 1944 picture shows

of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has specialized in the study of women's work and health hazards.

He wrote in *New Scientist*: "We must stop and think before we start making endless regulations to try to protect women from jobs they really want to do."

"In the long term, there is only one solution: to clean up the workplace so that work is safe and pleasurable for both men and women. If a woman cannot do a job today, it means there is something wrong with the job, not that there is something wrong with the woman."

DL

Focus is on the small firms

Twelve million people in Britain work for companies with fewer than 200 employees, in 900,000 workplaces - and only a handful have access to the appropriate industrial health services.

However under the forthcoming COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations, which will introduce a more structured approach, many businesses will at least have to be screened for potentially harmful substances.

That is why, during the past year, there has been an unprecedented flurry of new interest targeted at this vast untapped group.

Yet in 10 areas of Britain thousands of employers could be surprised to learn that cost-effective group industrial health services have existed on their doorstep for a number of years.

Together, the 10 units - in Dundee, Newcastle upon Tyne, Newton Aycliff near Durham, Rochdale, the West Midlands (at Telford and West Bromwich), Milton Keynes, Harlow, Slough and Central Middlesex - provide services for about 120,000 employees.

The first scheme was started in Slough in 1947; the latest, and possibly the last, in Newton Aycliff in 1980. The years in between are a potted history of Britain's post-war development.

Co-operatives normally charge on a per capita basis, so their fluctuating fortunes reflect local industry patterns. All are registered non-profit-making charities, charging between £12 and £60 a head per year, depending on the type of service required.

Most group services are based on industrial estates, although a couple, such as the North of England service in Newcastle, operate out of the local university. They offer the full range of occupational health, medical, nursing and environmental services.

This means emergency treatment for accidents and illnesses arising at work; approved first aid training and refresher courses; pre-employment and insurance medicals; fitness to work assessments following illness; executive screening and the special examinations required in certain industries. Physiotherapy and chiropody services may also be part of the package.

Units can carry out blood tests for lead and asbestos, and sight tests for VDU operators. Some provide cervical screening services, all are interested in health education and counselling.

They can give the vaccinations and immunizations which are required for travel abroad or for special working conditions. They will monitor the environment for dust, fumes and noise.

They advise, too, on present and pending legislation.

They can provide professional staff - usually specially trained occupational health nurses and doctors - to visit sites according to a company's needs. This could be a one-off assessment study or a regular daily or weekly commitment.

Details vary slightly with local conditions. For instance, the Newcastle service now changes on a visit basis because so many member companies have gone to the wall. This works out at £26 an hour for a doctor, just over £5 for a nurse.

West Bromwich charges 41p per person per week and basically operates a peripatetic nursing service. Central Middlesex, at the Park Royal trading estate in west London, takes a more scientific approach.

It can offer additional highly specialized services, such as training helicopter pilots to escape from under water, Slough, one of the largest with 580 member companies, involving 27,000 employees, provides facilities for non-industrial conditions such as sports injuries.

Ten schemes still alive and kicking

But it has been an uphill climb for them all, and they are the first to admit it. "We were set up in 1977, but we've grown very slowly until recently," says Dr Ian Hodgson, medical director of the Milton Keynes unit.

Although the 10 remaining schemes of this type are alive and well (and mostly) kicking, having survived the lean 1970s they readily state that in the economic climate of the 1980s the new ones are unlikely to emerge.

Dr Hodgson explains: "You need £80,000-plus a year for three years to become viable, and a minimum of 8,000 to 10,000 employees on your books. Or you need very good terms from a development corporation, which may be in the throes of winding up before anyone's thought about group health service."

Nevertheless, the small-scale industrial health services scene is developing, with the newcomers duly reflecting the style of the 1980s - private commercial enterprise Universities with medical schools that include an occupational health unit are increasingly renting out their services.

Some companies with large in-house services have started to offer their expertise commercially. The British Steel Corporation is one example. It is making its environmental hygiene control services available to anyone who asks.

Deanna Wilson

A day in the life of a field officer - looking for people at risk

"Today I am advising a general practitioner who has been taken on by a firm which wants to have its employees looked after - the danger being from isocyanates, a component combined with resins to form a very hard finish to surfaces. The GP doesn't know anything about occupational health, the firm doesn't know what it wants - it's quite a small business, with no medical expertise".

Dr Dale Archer, one of the 60 Field Officers for the Health and Safety Executive, will suggest to the GP and the firm the kind of examination the staff should have, the number of times a year, what should be looked for, and the action to take if any harmful effects are observed.

In theory, he has three million people to look after in the work

population of an area made up of the West Midlands, Stafford, Shropshire, north of Telford to the Welsh border, and including Wolverhampton, Walsall, the Black Country and the Potteries.

Dr Archer was a GP for several years and then went into industrial health for a number of private firms before joining the Health and Safety Executive. He understands both sides of the problem: "A GP may encounter a patient with asthma and treat it without asking, 'Where do you work and what do you do for a living?' He may not even realise that occupational asthma is a prescribed disease."

After that, it might be even more complicated. If his occupation is making him ill, does an employee leave? Can the conditions at work be

altered? Or will his employer sack him?

"We identify hazards and people at risk," Dr Archer said, "and we try to help the management to work it out." He quotes a small outfit in the wilds of Shropshire employing six people, two of whom have dermatitis. It is a small problem but a high proportion of the employees are affected. "We can help them with advice, get the GP to patch test the people, and if it's oil causing the trouble, components can be dropped out of the oil."

There have to be acceptable risks, but the public really demands a no-risk, no-hazard society, which is not possible. "Take asbestos - the number of cases is really very small. Is it a medical priority, or a problem of the

perception of the public that all asbestos is dangerous?"

Similarly there is a problem with the introduction of VDUs and the incidence of miscarriage among young women. The evidence does not demonstrate any hazard - but the risk people think exists might cause stress enough to cause miscarriage.

Dr Archer appoints examiners to check health, in the Potteries, for example, where workers are exposed to lead in glazes. "A hundred years ago people died of lead poisoning," he said. Now they examine 100,000 people a year.

Part of his work is advising the Manpower Services Commission and skill centres on unemployment and rehabilitation, pointing out the right kind of career for people who want to

get back to work after being unemployed for some time. "A one-legged out of work alcoholic with epilepsy shouldn't go to work for a roofing contractor", Dr Archer said, cheerfully.

There are problems which can be very long term - may be 20 or 30 years later that a worker develops asbestosis or cancer. But these are unusual cases.

What is the most common occupational disease? "Dermatitis. It isn't political, nor is it very sexy, but it's responsible for more misery and time lost in the engineering trade than any other disease. Many thousands of hours are lost. It's not very interesting medically, but in the world of work it's bloody important."

Philipa Toomey

How much will stress cost your company this year

Stress related problems are costly. Both in terms of reduced efficiency, and of the human price paid by the sufferers.

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Fit for more than fighting

At the actor Peter Ustinov asked why he volunteered to serve in tanks during the last of his reply was that he was going to be called up he may as go to fight sitting down. In the armed forces, war is an occupational hazard - it is how they are trained with their equipment their machines where the hazards can arise. Sitting in a tank, a la Ustinov, in the cold or heat for hours can be an unenviable and impairing experience. But it is why an extraordinary unit of research and development has gone into the occupational and physiological conditions likely to be faced by the soldier, sailor and airman: their occupational health must be safeguarded.

The Falklands campaign provides a recent example of the occupational health demands. Not only were the medical corps present to look after the wounded, but occupational health doctors prepared the troops for the environmental hazards that would be met. Afterwards a survey was carried out on 338 soldiers who had been engaged in the campaign by means of a questionnaire, clinical examination and audiometric testing to assess the noise-induced hearing loss they might have sustained through exposure to weapon noise.

The findings showed there was a considerable amount of hearing loss in specialized groups and less loss in other exposed groups, all caused by the pounding of guns and mortars. Question for occupational health doctors: How can better protection be provided?

A less extreme example: A Tornado jet is hurtling across the sky with an experienced pilot and navigator on board. Its tightly enclosed environmental conditions have been tested as far as humanly possible to avoid placing any

stress on its occupants, who in turn are regularly checked for their own fitness. Failure in either direction could mean the loss of life and a £20 million machine.

Air Commodore G. E. Simpson, Assistant Surgeon General in Environmental Medicine and Research at the Ministry of Defence, explained: "In the services we have to prepare for everything for both men and machines. It is the pilot flying at high altitudes, the diver diving to extreme depths, the tank driver operating in extreme temperatures."

Although the Defence Medical Services have now been merged - a trial in itself, having

Each service does its own research

incurred a 20 per cent loss in manpower - each service has its own research establishments: the Institute of Naval Medicine at Alverstoke, Gosport, the Army Personnel Research Establishment, and the RAF Institute of Aviation, both at Farnborough, Hampshire.

They can cover everything to assist the integration of man and machine, from the physiological efficiency of the soldier to the use of chemical sub-

stances, from the biodynamics of flying to biological monitoring. The research is endless.

In industry a man can be subject to toxic hazards eight hours a day, five days a week, but a man in a nuclear submarine lives in his enclosed environment for weeks.

The role of the medical services is not only to be responsible for the primary health but also health at work. In fact, the first industrial doctor was said to be at the Royal Dockyard at Chatham in 1625.

Today the three services jointly have more than 60 accredited consultants in occupational medicine who are members of the Faculty of Medicine, together with a vast non-medical staff trained in occupational health who monitor everything from food to drainage, from water supplies to noise.

Every week there are the new recruits - the services have a 10 per cent turnover of personnel, which means that every year 30,000 people have to be categorized as to their medical standard and given a medical employment standard. Failure to maintain the medical standard could lead to a downgrading of the medical employment standard.

Wounded soldiers in the Falklands campaign: The pressure was on the medical corps and the army's occupational health doctors

The armed forces, constantly living at the frontiers of new technology, have their specialists to meet new developments. The Institute of Naval Medicine, as an example, trains 300 Royal Navy, Army and RAF personnel as radiation protection supervisors and radiation safety officers every year.

Then there are the 400 Royal Navy and RAF medical officers, radiographers and Royal Navy nuclear engineers who are trained annually in specialized aspects of radiological protection.

It is a long way from Peter Ustinov's tank. As machines become more sophisticated, new occupational and environmental hazards can arise.

The 60,000 industrial and non-industrial staff who work in the Ministry of Defence's research and development, proof and experimental establishments come under the Directorate of Civilian Medical Services (Procurement Executive). The potential hazards can also be enormous when dealing with radiation and radioactive materials, radar, rockets and propellants, explosives, pressure and thermal chambers.

Michael Hatfield



The huge cost of industrial health, but can the taxpayer afford it?

At the time next year a recommendation will land on the desk of the Secretary of State for Social Services which could have enormous implications for occupational health and the taxpayer.

One eminent occupational health doctor described it: "In the health at work, it is the hot potato we may have to face." It was referring to the investigation by the Industrial Injuries Commission, an independent body which reports to the Government, into whether emphysema and chronic bronchitis, like pneumonia, should be prescribed as an industrial disease.

The council was confronted with medical conditions 13 years when they found that there was sufficient evidence to support recognition of the conditions in their own right.

It new evidence suggests that

the Exchequer in terms of disablement benefit to the thousands of sufferers is incalculable. There is, however, a major obstacle in reaching a decision, and it is set out in their terms of reference, taken from the Social Security Act 1975, and now before the Council.

It states that the Secretary of State must be satisfied that the disease "ought to be treated, having regard to its causes and incidence and any other relevant considerations, as a risk of their occupations and not as a risk to all persons".

And, as the occupational health doctor, quoted above, said: "How in those terms, is it possible to make a judgment when one of the causes of the two conditions is smoking, which is a risk to all persons?"

While the council ponders, different types of industries have their own problems.

Ask Dr Monty Brill, the chief medical officer at Ford, what is his greatest frustration and he has no hesitation in replying: "When two pieces of metal bang together how do you stop them making a noise."

Of course you can't. All that can be done is to take preventive action to reduce the impact of what could be a serious health hazard for the workforce by the wearing of protective gear and to isolate the source of noise as much as possible.

Dr Jim Burns, the chief medical officer at the National Coal Board, has a different problem. "When you cut coal you are going to create dust," he says. "It's a fact we have to live with. What we have to do is to eliminate it as much as possible and set down rigorous standards."

Stress can be elsewhere. It is inseparable from the fierce competition in the retail trade. Dr Derek Taylor, chief medical officer for Marks and Spencer, does not see any increase in stress, but believes "as you have increasing commercial development the support system of occupational health should develop in tandem."

But what all occupational health doctors will say is that the "dynamics of the work are fascinating and challenging".

Dr Taylor and his staff have responsibility for the backs and feet of more than 30,000 staff in 260

stores. Obviously, their remit is wider than that, but working in the retail industry means long hours standing behind counters and moving goods around in warehouses.

The company provides subsidized food, hairdressing, chiropody and dentistry service for its staff. Recently it produced a video "The

Today there are about 30,000 miners who are receiving disablement benefit

Right move" to train staff in lifting techniques.

The challenges facing Dr Brill at Ford's, with its staff of nine doctors, 85 nurses, three industrial hygienists, and a large back-up staff in 20 separate site departments involving 50,000 workers are large and complex.

Aside from the physical hazards, such as noise - one of the most common problems throughout industry - there is safeguarding against asbestos, oil and oil mist, welding fumes and gases, solvents, silica dust, formaldehyde and resins.

So there has to be regular medical examination and screening, in the case of some groups of workers exposed to toxics, once every three months, even though they work in controlled atmospheric environments with protective gear when, for example, spraying paint or polishing metal.

The National Coal Board has been studying the physics of dust for

more than 30 years, coal-workers' pneumoconiosis having been recognized as an industrial disease more than 40 years ago.

Today there are about 30,000 miners receiving disablement benefit, but because of research into dust suppression techniques the numbers of miners who contract the disease is constantly on the decrease. It is becoming less common in all areas and in some collieries is now rare.

As the Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh (the NCB is responsible for two-thirds of its

funding) studies are carried out into epidemiology, ergonomics, occupational hygiene and the mechanisms of disease.

In the last two years it has undertaken mortality studies of coalminers, steel workers and coke-oven workers. It is currently examining, among other studies, the electrostatic properties of airborne dust and the exposure to nitrogen oxides from diesel fumes.

While the health hazard of handling chrome is no longer a problem in the motor industry - the metal - hardly used on cars these days - it remains a potential danger for a group of workers with British Airways. Out of an engineering staff of some 7,000 there are 23 workers involved with chrome and for them it means a statutory check twice a week on their hands and nose.

But the British Airways medical service, headed by Dr Frank Preston, with its staff of 100-plus including 11 doctors, 63 nursing sisters, and three hygienists, has to oversee over 38,000 employees.

The business of civil aviation has its own endemic problems, from the testing of potential ionization

hazards on flight decks to inspections of passengers food at home and abroad. British Airways provides 20 million airborne meals a year.

British Airways has 1,000 crew out of the United Kingdom every 24 hours, from as far north as Alaska to New Zealand in the south and the potential health hazards, such as tropical diseases, are always present.

Public transport has its different problems on the ground - or underground. The medical services division of London Regional Transport oversees the occupational health of 55,000 staff who run the bus and tube services and in the engineering depots.

There is no such thing as an anthropomorphic bus driver. So how do you design a bus cab - or an underground train cab - so that the person whose working life is spent in it can be as comfortable as possible?

It is back to ergonomics - integrating people with their machines so that they can function efficiently and providing an environment which ensures health at work.

MH

It's not always the most obvious industries that need health and safety advice.



Once dangers to life and limb were as obvious as the lion, and health and safety at work was a matter of commonsense and compassion.

Now, with new technology, new chemicals and quite different working conditions, hazards to health are a lot less easy to spot, and crop up in industries that seem a lot safer than the circus.

A noisy environment at work, or invisible dust and fumes can have extremely serious, and often permanent consequences. An acute hazard at work today could even mean the absence of a key employee tomorrow.

At the same time, health and safety laws in the UK and the EEC have become so complex and so stringent that trying to understand them, let alone implement them, can be a health hazard in itself.

Yet, it's essential that you do; for these days insurers may have to penalise people who don't follow health and safety regulations to the letter, and could well offer lower premiums to those who do.

Public awareness of hazards has grown too, so slack health and safety standards can lead to bad labour relations and worse publicity.

So it's not surprising that more and more companies are turning to independent experts for advice; and the best known of these is John Humphrey, Managing Director of AMI Occupational Health Ltd.

Call in John Humphrey and his team of specialists and your company's health and safety is assured. They will assess the problems and give you a tailor-made solution, short term and long term. They will then organise and implement the necessary changes for you, and calculate your savings in lower insurance premiums and reduced absenteeism.

AMI Occupational Health Ltd is part of the comprehensive AMI Health Care network, whose philosophy is that, whatever business you're in, prevention is better than cure.

For further information please telephone us on 021 440 5640, or write to: Mr John Humphrey, AMI Occupational Health Ltd, Priory Dene, 28 Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7UG.

AMI Occupational Health Ltd
The Health and Safety Professionals

by **Stuart Jones**, Football Correspondent

Sparta knocked out Real Madrid in the first round of the UEFA Cup two seasons ago but Jan Zachar, their new manager, is aware that "a 2-0 win here

By Clive White

With a television deal between the Football League and the BBC and ITV still to be negotiated, the football authorities are concerned that if tonight's screening goes ahead it may open the flood of televised matches from

Simon Barnes

VALDHAHL-OPEN LEAGUE Premier division:
Walthamston 3, Barking 2.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE 1st Division: City: First
round: Chesham 2, 5; Ruston 0, 1; Leicester
1, 2; 3, 4; 5, 6; 7, 8; 9, 10; 11, 12; 13, 14; 15, 16; 17, 18; 19, 20; 21, 22; 23, 24; 25, 26; 27, 28; 29, 30; 31, 32; 33, 34; 35, 36; 37, 38; 39, 40; 41, 42; 43, 44; 45, 46; 47, 48; 49, 50; 51, 52; 53, 54; 55, 56; 57, 58; 59, 60; 61, 62; 63, 64; 65, 66; 67, 68; 69, 70; 71, 72; 73, 74; 75, 76; 77, 78; 79, 80; 81, 82; 83, 84; 85, 86; 87, 88; 89, 90; 91, 92; 93, 94; 95, 96; 97, 98; 99, 100; 101, 102; 103, 104; 105, 106; 107, 108; 109, 110; 111, 112; 113, 114; 115, 116; 117, 118; 119, 120; 121, 122; 123, 124; 125, 126; 127, 128; 129, 130; 131, 132; 133, 134; 135, 136; 137, 138; 139, 140; 141, 142; 143, 144; 145, 146; 147, 148; 149, 150; 151, 152; 153, 154; 155, 156; 157, 158; 159, 160; 161, 162; 163, 164; 165, 166; 167, 168; 169, 170; 171, 172; 173, 174; 175, 176; 177, 178; 179, 180; 181, 182; 183, 184; 185, 186; 187, 188; 189, 190; 191, 192; 193, 194; 195, 196; 197, 198; 199, 200; 201, 202; 203, 204; 205, 206; 207, 208; 209, 210; 211, 212; 213, 214; 215, 216; 217, 218; 219, 220; 221, 222; 223, 224; 225, 226; 227, 228; 229, 230; 231, 232; 233, 234; 235, 236; 237, 238; 239, 240; 241, 242; 243, 244; 245, 246; 247, 248; 249, 250; 251, 252; 253, 254; 255, 256; 257, 258; 259, 260; 261, 262; 263, 264; 265, 266; 267, 268; 269, 270; 271, 272; 273, 274; 275, 276; 277, 278; 279, 280; 281, 282; 283, 284; 285, 286; 287, 288; 289, 290; 291, 292; 293, 294; 295, 296; 297, 298; 299, 300; 301, 302; 303, 304; 305, 306; 307, 308; 309, 310; 311, 312; 313, 314; 315, 316; 317, 318; 319, 320; 321, 322; 323, 324; 325, 326; 327, 328; 329, 330; 331, 332; 333, 334; 335, 336; 337, 338; 339, 340; 341, 342; 343, 344; 345, 346; 347, 348; 349, 350; 351, 352; 353, 354; 355, 356; 357, 358; 359, 360; 361, 362; 363, 364; 365, 366; 367, 368; 369, 370; 371, 372; 373, 374; 375, 376; 377, 378; 379, 380; 381, 382; 383, 384; 385, 386; 387, 388; 389, 390; 391, 392; 393, 394; 395, 396; 397, 398; 399, 400; 401, 402; 403, 404; 405, 406; 407, 408; 409, 410; 411, 412; 413, 414; 415, 416; 417, 418; 419, 420; 421, 422; 423, 424; 425, 426; 427, 428; 429, 430; 431, 432; 433, 434; 435, 436; 437, 438; 439, 440; 441, 442; 443, 444; 445, 446; 447, 448; 449, 450; 451, 452; 453, 454; 455, 456; 457, 458; 459, 460; 461, 462; 463, 464; 465, 466; 467, 468; 469, 470; 471, 472; 473, 474; 475, 476; 477, 478; 479, 480; 481, 482; 483, 484; 485, 486; 487, 488; 489, 490; 491, 492; 493, 494; 495, 496; 497, 498; 499, 500; 501, 502; 503, 504; 505, 506; 507, 508; 509, 510; 511, 512; 513, 514; 515, 516; 517, 518; 519, 520; 521, 522; 523, 524; 525, 526; 527, 528; 529, 530; 531, 532; 533, 534; 535, 536; 537, 538; 539, 540; 541, 542; 543, 544; 545, 546; 547, 548; 549, 550; 551, 552; 553, 554; 555, 556; 557, 558; 559, 560; 561, 562; 563, 564; 565, 566; 567, 568; 569, 570; 571, 572; 573, 574; 575, 576; 577, 578; 579, 580; 581, 582; 583, 584; 585, 586; 587, 588; 589, 590; 591, 592; 593, 594; 595, 596; 597, 598; 599, 600; 601, 602; 603, 604; 605, 606; 607, 608; 609, 610; 611, 612; 613, 614; 615, 616; 617, 618; 619, 620; 621, 622; 623, 624; 625, 626; 627, 628; 629, 630; 631, 632; 633, 634; 635, 636; 637, 638; 639, 640; 641, 642; 643, 644; 645, 646; 647, 648; 649, 650; 651, 652; 653, 654; 655, 656; 657, 658; 659, 660; 661, 662; 663, 664; 665, 666; 667, 668; 669, 670; 671, 672; 673, 674; 675, 676; 677, 678; 679, 680; 681, 682; 683, 684; 685, 686; 687, 688; 689, 690; 691, 692; 693, 694; 695, 696; 697, 698; 699, 700; 701, 702; 703, 704; 705, 706; 707, 708; 709, 710; 711, 712; 713, 714; 715, 716; 717, 718; 719, 720; 721, 722; 723, 724; 725, 726; 727, 728; 729, 730; 731, 732; 733, 734; 735, 736; 737, 738; 739, 740; 741, 742; 743, 744; 745, 746; 747, 748; 749, 750; 751, 752; 753, 754; 755, 756; 757, 758; 759, 760; 761, 762; 763, 764; 765, 766; 767, 768; 769, 770; 771, 772; 773, 774; 775, 776; 777, 778; 779, 780; 781, 782; 783, 784; 785, 786; 787, 788; 789, 790; 791, 792; 793, 794; 795, 796; 797, 798; 799, 800; 801, 802; 803, 804; 805, 806; 807, 808; 809, 810; 811, 812; 813, 814; 815, 816; 817, 818; 819, 820; 821, 822; 823, 824; 825, 8

**By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)**

BREEDING: **SIRE**—**CHAMPION BARKER LOACHMAN** (B-7) best sire; **DAM**—**MARY ANN WATTHILL** (Sf, E684 9) at Esopus 51, £2710, good, Aug 27; **MALLARD** (B-7) best history (B-7) 31 at Warwick (Sf, E684 good, Aug. 26, 18 ran); **CARPENTERS BOY** (B-3) recently came w/ End of P Perpetua (B-9) at Edgworth (Sf, E1657, good, Aug 2) with **WARTHILL LADY** (4-f) by back in run; **LAST SECRET** (B-5) another 5 w/back in 8th, and **GLOUCHEN SKOLAR** (B-6) takes off in 8th. Latest Warthill Lady (B-7) 2nd beaten 3/4 to King Charlemagne (B-0) 14 ran, Edgworth 5/f cap good Sep 18.

Selectors: GEORGE WILLIAM

By John Karter

Peter Scudamore, Steve Smith-Eddles, Hywel Davies and Sam Morshead, representing the south.

Wald (sm). 9-4 Lady Of Laughter (2m), 12
Iskara, 14 Pourbois 16m. 15 The Black Sack.

BOSS 71 Newmndmst. COTE. E7 80: 12 80: Morshead. rep
E3 00. E4 80 DF: E19.10 CSF: E87.33.

representing the south.

JOCKEYS: K. Hodgson, 20 winners from 56 rides, 23.3 per cent; Paul Eddery, 11 from 63, 16.9 per cent; K. Darley, 20 from 133, 15.0 per cent.

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Age 24+ WP and shorthand, good administrative skills. Previous marketing experience preferred with P.R. and media liaison, in addition to organising overworked marketing manager. Busy environment in this major European electronic rental company.

Company benefits include 4 weeks holiday, free lunches, social club + pension scheme. Please write with full c.v. to:

Rhona McKern, Personnel Officer
Livingstone Hire Ltd, 98 Waldegrave Road
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We are looking for a bright, well-educated Secretary with excellent skills, tact and discretion, to work for our Company Secretary.

The duties are varied, ranging from shorthand, audio, telex, typing of agendas and minutes, to dealing with a variety of administrative tasks connected with company returns and central records for music companies worldwide. An interest in company law would therefore be useful.

We are offering a salary range £7,500 - £8,500 (a.e.c.), pleasant working conditions and other Company benefits.

To apply, please write to:

Barbara Rottmann,
Senior Personnel Officer,
EMI MUSIC LIMITED,
20 Manchester Square, London W1A 1ES.

EMI

My firm never looked back once we started to get our temporaries from...

Senior Secretaries
CITY 01-406 9171/WEST 01-406 0052
The first numbers to ring

FINLANDIA VODKA

The Finnish National distillers (Alko) Ltd

We are the UK subsidiary company for the Finnish National Wine & Spirits Corporation and urgently need a bright and intelligent person to handle general secretarial duties for MD and PR manager. Lots of liaison with Helsinki office, and UK Duty Free Distributors. Some S/R and good typing. WP experience and good telephone manner. Age 20ish. Smart, friendly West End offices. Salary £8,000 neg. Lunch, allowance, free vodka.

Contact Karen Egan

01-238 5501

7 LUDGATE SQ (off Ludgate Hill, EC4A 3DF) 9.30-4.30 Mon-Fri

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Join this young friendly team within a major City organisation and get involved with organising seminars, client presentations and helping to promote new business. Your boss is someone who hates administration, loves to delegate and is looking for a bright enthusiastic young secretary who is prepared to develop their role. Age: 20-28. Skills: 90/60.

Sailing High c.£8,500

The Director of this multinational company has key responsibility for their fleet of passenger cruise ships. In addition to arranging his busy work schedule and giving full secretarial back up you will also deal with customer queries and VIP visits. Excellent presentation and ability to communicate essential. Skills: 100/60.

In the News c.£7,500

The editor of this glamorous magazine is looking for a young secretary to join his busy department. You'll need to keep up to the minute with the latest news and enjoy the buzz of working in a hectic press office. Good career prospects. Age: 18-24. Skills: 90/60.

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8 Golden Square, London W1 01-439 6021

SECRETARY

We are an International Recording Company specialising in the production and marketing of classical music and seek a first class Secretary to work for the President. Applicants should possess sound secretarial skills (some s/r) an excellent command of English language, together with a genuine interest in classical music. As an International Company, a knowledge would be extremely useful. This is a professional and confidential appointment ideally suited to someone with similar experience, age preferred 28-35. We offer the salary and benefits to be expected from a major International Company and would ask interested applicants to write with full career details in the first instance to:

Sally Ivis,
Personnel Officer
Decca International
1 Rockley Road
London W14
Closing date for applications is 30th September 1985.

DECCA

LINK Personnel

CHAIRMAN'S PA £10,000

Executive secretary, top level skills and experience, excellent presentation for dynamic young chairman of major W1 publishers

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This role offers plenty of scope for initiative and responsibility. Senior level experience essential plus sense of humour 100/60 wpm.

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(24 hrs)

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Telex 887374 Fax 01-588 3216

President of privately owned group of companies requires

CJRA

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£15,000 - £20,000

We are looking for a person with a cheerful, outgoing personality, of smart appearance and with good secretarial skills. Applicants should have a good general education, possibly to university level. Fluency in English and good written/spoken French are required. The successful candidate will work closely with the President and become involved in his business and personal affairs and will be required to travel extensively with him. A salary is negotiable of £15,000 - £20,000 and full expenses will be paid. Applicants aged between 25 and 35 with complete mobility and no personal ties are invited to write enclosing a Curriculum Vitae and a recent photograph. Applications in strict confidence under reference SPA 17102/TT, will be forwarded unopened to our client unless you list companies to which they should not be sent in a covering letter marked for the attention of the Security Manager.

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING LIMITED, 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH.

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SECOND SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN

LONDON E.C.4

£8,000 - £10,000 + MORTGAGE SUBSIDY

& PROFIT SHARE

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK

For this interesting appointment we invite applications from young, bright, self-confident secretaries (aged 19-25) with excellent shorthand and typing (110/70) and 1-2 years work experience. The work is varied and demanding, including banking, personal work and special projects, and there is a busy schedule of meetings and travel to co-ordinate. The successful applicant will have contact with people at all levels and in addition to flexibility and a down-to-earth attitude, will possess poise, savoir faire, dedication and high standards. Initial remuneration is negotiable, in relation to age and experience, to £10,000 + mortgage subsidy, profit share and good company benefits. Applications in strict confidence under reference SSC648/TT to Managing Director.

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Circa - £12,000

A small but growing firm of management consultants with superb offices in SW7 are looking for a PA/Office administrator. You will take full responsibility for the smooth running of the office as well as providing secretarial support for the Office Manager in his role as a Consultant. Excellent secretarial skills (100/60) and good conversational French and German are essential. Age 28 - 35.

ANGELA MORTIMER

c.£10,000 + Mortgage

The charming Chief Executive of a leading French Bank requires a PA who can represent him in the City. As well as senior level secretarial duties, the job promises involvement at the heart of the City Revolution. Fluent French, preferably with shorthand, and the personality to handle people and major events with charm and efficiency are essential for this position. Skills 100/60 Age 28+

CITY OFFICE 01-726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

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c.£10,500

As Secretary to the Publisher of this prestigious magazine your role will be a mixture of PA work and PR organisation. As well as providing full secretarial support, organising his hectic business schedule, you will develop your own PR role dealing with press releases and special events. A friendly personality, initiative and previous PR/senior PA experience are essential for this exciting position. Age 25-30 Skills 110/65

CITY OFFICE 01-726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

Appreciating Consultants...

This ad is entirely specific. It is written to those who know first-hand how much effort and energy it takes to achieve real success as a secretarial recruitment consultant. Such success rarely comes easily. Ability, endeavour and ambition are all necessary. But confidence is essential too. And sometimes, confidence can be eroded by surroundings. Which brings us to the two questions we would like to ask.

The first concerns loyalty. In all honesty, we have yet to meet a good consultant who was not also a supreme advocate for their own employer. Professional pride in one's own set-up is admirable. Yet how often is it warranted? Is your company as uncompromising in its support of you as you are of it?

The other point concerns career progress. The professional is often the last to benefit from his own skill and expertise. In your case, you spend each day of the week advising others. But how often do you pause to consider your own career? Are you gaining in reward, respect and recognition? Are you appreciating, as well as appreciated, as a consultant?

If not, then perhaps we should talk quite soon - off the record, informally, whenever and wherever suits you best. Telephone or write in confidence to:

Gordon Yates Limited
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01-493 4466 (till 8.30 pm)
(Recruitment Consultants)

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to £10,500 N. London

Our client is a progressive company which has been established for over 150 years and is growing rapidly. It markets high quality furniture at home and overseas. It has received the Royal Warrant.

The Managing Director needs a Personal Assistant to help him with the management of his business affairs, be responsible for the control of the general office and to be very much involved in all facets of the day-to-day business. This will include customer liaison and the maintenance of personal records. You will be working in a very busy and stimulating environment.

You will be expected to provide a first-class secretarial service. You should possess confidence, organisational ability and be self-motivated. Age 30+.

Please write, with CV and quoting reference 325, to Mrs Lynda Kennedy

DBA Associates Limited
Management & Recruitment Consultants
19 Britton Street, London EC1M 5NQ.

Tel: (01) 250 0003

Secretary

The Oil division of the ICG Gas Group, engaged in oil and gas exploration and production, requires a Secretary with strong administrative abilities to join its small team in the City of London.

You will provide a shorthand secretarial service to the Commercial and General Manager covering legal and technical matters and also be responsible for the general administration of the division.

You should have excellent secretarial skills including word processing experience, proven organisational ability and considerable initiative, capabilities we expect to find in someone aged 25-30.

We offer an excellent salary package which includes bonus, mortgage subsidy after a qualifying period, non-contributory pension scheme, free BUPA, free lunches and 24 days holiday.

Please send a comprehensive c.v. or telephone for an application form to: M. A. Pittman,

Personnel Manager, ICG Gas,
14 Moorfields Highway, London
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ICGas

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SECRETARY/PA TO TRADE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

required by small, dynamic marketing company in Belgium. Good secretarial skills and an enthusiastic, flexible personality are essential. A good salary will be offered to the right person.

Please write with full curriculum vitae to the Chief Executive, Aquilac (Spring Waters) Limited, 6 Lygon Place, London SW1W 0JR.

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£10,500

A young and successful property investment & development Co is looking for a top Secretary. You will be working for 2 senior directors who are involved in the company's future projections. Their small offices are based near Victoria. Age 24-32. Skills 90/60.

01-499 8092

01-499 5907

Senior Secretaries

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Long-standing, fast-moving consultancy who specialise in advertising, PR, marketing and allied industries, are searching for an experienced recruitment consultant with ambition, enthusiasm, initiative, able to run the show. Good Person. Possible future Assoc. Directorship. Please call CAROLINE PRICE on

629 1859

adpower

communications

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/2

Ideal for the executive

A two-bedroom apartment in one of the few residential blocks in St James's Street in the West End, now owned by a member of the Astor family, is for sale at £250,000 through Keith Cardale Groves. Close to St James's Palace, the apartment has a fine 60ft reception room with Louis XVI carved stone fireplaces at each end of the room, and french windows to a small ornamental balcony. The two bedrooms each have a bathroom en suite and the apartment has recently been refurbished. Philip Christie, of Keith Cardale Groves, suggests that it will go to a senior company executive, because its double reception room makes it ideal for entertaining on a "large, corporate scale".

The late Arthur Koestler's country house at Denston, south Suffolk, has been fully modernized, and is for sale at £167,500 through H. C. Wolton and Son, of Bury St Edmunds. Water Lane Farm House, set in 1½ acres, Grade II listed building, dating from the 16th century, retains many of its old features. It has five bedrooms, three reception rooms, four bathrooms and separate granny annexe.

Street of legend

Keers Street, in Lewes, East Sussex, is the oldest cobbled street in this old and hilly town, where legend has it that the Prince Regent drove a coach and four down the steep street for a wager. It would be a fine achievement if true, and there would have been a good view from Number 4, Keers Street, at the top, which is for sale through Humberts' Lewes office.

The period cottage has been renovated and modernized, built in brick under a tiled roof, and has a drawing room, two bedrooms, and a large, dry cellar suitable for additional living accommodation. At the rear there is a secluded walled garden. Humberts are seeking £57,500.

St Nicholas Farmhouse, a late-Georgian, Grade II listed house, in open countryside at Hurst, near Reading, Berkshire, is for sale through Jackson-Stops and Staff. It is to be sold by public auction on October 23, and unusually, has a declared reserve, of £225,000. It has three reception rooms, study/gun room, four bedrooms and a dressing room or fifth bedroom, with a heated swimming pool, tennis court, paddocks and ponds in 6½ acres of grounds.

Waiting game
Number 82, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, is a substantial, early Victorian house which was reputedly built for one of Queen Victoria's ladies in waiting.

It is for sale through Callender Wright, who are asking £875,000 for the freehold, or £850,000 including the contents.

Hambledon Vineyards at Hambledon, Hampshire, the long-established English vineyard, is to be sold by Knight Frank and Rutley on the instructions of the executors of the late Sir Arthur Guy Salisbury-Jones and his family. They want more than £400,000 for the vineyard, which is on the southern slopes of Windmill Down, birthplace of English cricket. A seven-bedroom, three-reception-room house, dating from the turn of the century, with a self-contained wing and cottage, stands in the 19 acres of grounds, of which 7½ acres are the vineyard.



Allfreys, set in the heart of walking and riding country in Cowfold, Sussex, is a Grade II listed house with an impressive castellated and gable-pointed facade added in the 19th century. It has recently been modernized as a family country home. The house has four main bedrooms, with four more bedrooms on the second floor, with three reception rooms. Next to the house is a coach house of brick, with a tiled roof, which could provide a self-contained annexe if renovated. The 2½ acres of gardens include an old tennis lawn, pond, orchard and vegetable garden. Cubitt and West's Horsham office is asking £265,000.

High-priced retirement

As the market for houses designed specially for retired people and the old continued to expand, so it is apparent that while most of the emphasis is on flats and houses at the lower end of the market which are within the reach of many people, there is a lack of such property at the higher end.

The English Courtyard Association has pioneered retirement homes at the top end of the market, winning awards as it has done so, planning most carefully to cater for the needs of their customers.

The latest entry into this specialized field is by Beechcroft Developments, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire, who are in the process of building a development of cottages and flats near the centre of Hungerford, an attractive Berkshire market town, which is ideally suited for the purpose.

What makes the development different is that it has about five acres of meadowland, with trees and grasses stretching down the River Dun, a natural conservation area designated an area of special scientific interest.

A lake in the grounds is to be stocked with trout, and both the lake and river will be available for fishing by the owners. At the same time, the land will be protected, left as natural as possible and provided with paths and benches for walks.

The development consists of 27 cottages and eight flats, carefully designed to meet the needs of retired people. The cottages have two reception rooms, a kitchen, cloakroom-shower room on the ground floor, with two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor, while some of the cottages also have

dressing rooms. All cottages have a conservatory - further evidence of the revival of interest in them, reported on the opposite page - and private terrace.

The flats, each with views over the courtyards created by the buildings, have similar accommodation, and again have either a conservatory or balcony.

The company has set up the Beechcroft Trust, its own non-profit management company to look after this and future developments, with a resident secretary, carefully named to get away from any suggestion of an institution, to oversee it all.

The first phase of the development will be ready early in 1986, with the cottages priced at £76,000 to £78,000, the flats at £65,000 to £70,000. Several of the units have already been reserved, some of them by local people, and the next phase of cottages, which overlook the lake, will cost £80,000 to £90,000. Details from Knight Frank and Rutley's Hungerford office.

A crucial consideration for such homes is the service charge necessary to provide for their maintenance, and the cost of other services and rates. The service charge is about £700 a year. Rates (£470), water authority rates (£100) and electricity for heating, hot water, lighting, cooking and power (£445), add up to over £1,700 a year.

The trust emphasizes its awareness of the importance to those on fixed incomes to keep costs down. Retirement living here is not cheap, but from the interest shown, it seems that Bearwater is providing what people want. CW

COUNTRY PROPERTY

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